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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF ASSAM, 1912-1913.

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SHILLONG:
PRINTED AT THE ASSAM SECRETARIAT PRINTING OFFICE.

1913.

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SUMMARY.

PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF ASSAM

FOR

1912-13.

PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

TOURS OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER.

Tours.

The Chief Commissioner left Shillong on the 18th June 1912, and halted for four days at Gauhati. In an address presented by the Municipality and Local Board stress was laid on the need for the improvement of the Gauhati water-works and dispensary and of the communications of the district. The Assam Association asked for the adoption of measures to meet the recrudescence of *kala-azar*, the improvement of the Cotton College, and the provincialisation of all High schools. From Gauhati the Chief Commissioner visited Goalpara and Dhubri. The inhabitants of the Goalpara subdivision asked, amongst other things, for the provincialisation of the Goalpara High School, and the inhabitants of the Goalpara district raised the important question of the rights and interests of the Zamindars of that district. The tour was then continued in the Surma Valley, and Karimganj, Silchar, Sylhet and Sunamganj were visited. Addresses were presented and replied to at each town, some of the subjects dealt with being the improvement of the Public Works Department staff at Karimganj, the provision of water-works at Silchar, the completion of the Branch Railway line and the provision of drainage and water-works at Sylhet and the need for more adequate municipal arrangements at Sunamganj. The landholders of Sylhet also asked for the establishment of a model farm, and for the provision of grazing grounds. An accident to the steamer "Brahmakund" necessitated the temporary abandonment of the tour in the Upper Assam Valley, and a return was made to Shillong by the end of July. The tour was resumed in August and September, when Dibrugarh, Jorhat and Tezpur were visited. From Dibrugarh an interesting excursion was made to the coal fields of Margherita and the oil-wells at Digboi. The opium question, female education, erosion by the Dibru river and the sanitary condition of the town were some of the matters discussed in addresses presented at Dibrugarh, and the local requirements in the matters of water-supply, sanitation and education were laid before the Chief Commissioner at Jorhat and Tezpur. In November Sir Archdale Earle toured on the North-East Frontier, visiting Kobo, Pasighat, Nizamghat, Bomjur, Sadiya and Digaru, and investigating on the spot the requirements of this tract of country under the more complete system of administration which had recently been introduced. A second cold-weather tour was made in January and February 1913. The opportunity was taken of meeting large numbers of the planting community at the Dibrugarh meet, and Nowgong, Haflong, Habiganj, Maulvi Bazar and Silchar were also visited. Addresses at Nowgong invited the Chief Commissioner's attention to the recrudescence of *kala-azar*, and the need for railway communications and improved educational facilities. Light railway schemes were also advocated at Habiganj and Maulvi Bazar, and stress was laid at Habiganj on the

importance of restoring the village system of government. In March the Chief Commissioner visited the Eastern Duars in Goalpara, received an address from the local Meches, and made enquiries as regards the means of communication in that part of the province. All the subjects referred to in the various addresses received during the year have been systematically dealt with by the Chief Commissioner, and great progress has already been made in respect of a large number of the schemes initiated.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

Changes in the Administration.

2. From the 1st April 1912 Assam was reconstituted as a separate province, with Sir Archdale Earle, K.C.I.E., as Chief Commissioner. It was recognised that the province, if it was to be developed as proposed, could not be administered by the meagre staff of officers allowed in pre-partition days. The number of Secretaries to Government were accordingly increased from two to three, the number of Heads of Departments augmented, and, generally, throughout the Administration, the staff was expanded. The rapid development of the province, which has taken place, has fully justified the wisdom of these measures.

A Legislative Council for Assam was created in November 1912, and, though no legislative measures have as yet been brought forward, much useful administrative work has been done.

A feature of the year was the formation of the North-Eastern Frontier Tract, to include the Abor and Mishmi countries, as well as the tracts inhabited by the Akas, Daflas and Miris. During the year two expeditions were organised, the one to deal with the Mishmi, and the other with the Abor country. In the former much progress in road-making was made, while the necessary survey work was completed. In the latter all necessary survey work has been finished, while the identity of the Sanpo with the Brahmaputra river has been established.

RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

Manipur.

3. The year was not a prosperous one in Manipur. The scarcity in the south-western hills increased somewhat in severity, the crops being again destroyed by the ravages of rats. Elsewhere the rice crop suffered to some extent from excessive rainfall and considerable areas remained uncultivated owing to an epidemic of rinderpest among the plough cattle.

The gross revenue of the State fell from Rs. 5,18,626 in the previous year to Rs. 5,08,133, the main decrease being under the head "Export taxes on rice, cattle, etc."

The total expenditure rose from Rs. 5,46,795 to Rs. 6,22,731, the increase being due to the construction of the Imphal water-works and to expenditure in relieving scarcity.

A widespread agitation against the system of unpaid State labour occurred towards the close of the year. The Chief Commissioner has recently sanctioned the abolition of the system.

The Manipur Company, Limited, was wound up during the year, but its silk venture is being continued by the Durbar.

Frontier tribes.

4. Important measures were introduced to secure the more effective control of the North-East Frontier. A separate district under the control of a Political Officer, working directly under the Chief Commissioner, was formed on the frontier east of the Subansiri-Siyom divide, and the appointment was sanctioned of a Political Officer to have charge of the section of the frontier west of that divide. Survey operations and road construction on an extensive scale were undertaken.

The Abors gave no trouble during the year. A trade post was established at Pasighat and another in the neighbourhood of Rotung. This latter post is of great importance, as it will bring the hill tribes into direct communication with the plains. Up to the current year the tribes of the hinterland have been prevented by intervening tribes from visiting the plains. The way to the plains is now open to all. In addition, Military Police outposts have been established at Kobo, Pasighat and Balek. The survey operations in the Abor country, begun in the previous year, were continued by a survey party escorted by a force of Military Police and accompanied by the Political Officer.

Survey operations were also brought to a conclusion and some road construction effected in the Mishmi country.

The peace of the Naga Hills frontier was broken by an outrage committed on certain British subjects by the trans-frontier village of Chinglong. A punitive column was attacked and suffered some loss, and it was considered necessary to despatch a second and stronger force, which inflicted summary punishment on the villages concerned.

All the villages in the area recently annexed to the Naga Hills were visited by the Deputy Commissioner, and a Military Police post was established at Wakching.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Condition of the people.

5. The year was, on the whole, favourable to agriculture. Bumper crops were reaped in Sylhet and Cachar, and the winter rice crop was normal or above the normal throughout the greater part of the Assam Valley.

The condition of the cultivating and labouring classes was good in all the plains districts except Sibsagar and Lakhimpur, agriculturists having been adversely affected by the floods of July 1912 in the former district and by a severe outbreak of cattle-disease in the latter. The situation in the Lushai Hills, which have been passing through a period of scarcity, showed some improvement.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

Realisation of the revenue.

6. There was an increase of 67·8 square miles in the revenue-paying area which gave a corresponding increase of Rs. 1,51,185 in revenue. The incidence of revenue per square mile rose from Rs. 571·98 to Rs. 581·18. The percentage of current collections on current demand was 96·05. It was found necessary to have freer recourse to all forms of coercive measures during the year. The actual sales of moveables and immoveables rose from 246 and 524 to 276 and 602, respectively. The total demand on account of miscellaneous land revenue rose from Rs. 6,35,815 to Rs. 6,75,312. 97·61 per cent. of the demand was realized.

SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

Surveys and Settlements.

7. The office of the Director of Surveys, Bengal and Assam, was removed from Shillong to Calcutta during the year, and a proposal, which has since been sanctioned, was submitted to the Government of India for the appointment of a Second Assistant Director of Surveys with headquarters at Shillong. A skeleton survey of 22 tea grants was made in the Lakhimpur district, and the traverse of extension survey areas and the relaying of boundaries were undertaken in several districts. 48,564 copies of maps were printed in the Shillong Drawing Office for Assam.

The preliminary report on the re-settlement of Dibrugarh town was received during the year, but careful enquiries into objections delayed the accord of sanction to the classification of sites and the rates of assessment till September 1913. Orders were issued during the year for the regular survey and re-settlement of the Guma ...uar in Goalpara. Proceedings for the re-settlement of the Cachar district were ...stituted during the year. The most important event of the year was the decision ...rived at, with the approval of the Government of India, to undertake experimental ...perations for a record-of-rights in a compact area consisting of three parganas of the Sylhet district, with a view to the subsequent formation of a complete record-of-rights for the district. This is a question which for many years had been the subject of discussion, and it is satisfactory that at last some practical step has been taken.

LAND RECORDS.

Land Records.

8. There was no change in the constitution of the Land Records Staff, but considerable progress was made in respect of the accepted policy of substituting resident for non-resident mandals.

SETTLEMENT FOR SPECIAL CULTIVATION (WASTE LANDS).

Settlement for special cultivation.

9. The area settled for special cultivation increased during the year by 2,212 acres and the revenue by Rs. 36,641. The increase in revenue was largely due to the re-settlement at enhanced rates of expired 30-year grants.

WARDS' ESTATES.

Wards' estates.

10. The management of four new estates in Sylhet was undertaken by the Court of Wards during the year, and the number of estates now under the Court is nine. The revised system of management under a General Manager, which was introduced in the middle of 1911-1912, led to some increase in the expenditure, but was amply justified by a marked improvement in collections and in the general efficiency of management.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

Revenue and rent-paying classes.

11. The year was generally a prosperous one for the cultivating and labouring classes. Prices both of food grains and of labour ruled high in spite of exceptionally good crops.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION.

Legislation.

12. A Legislative Council was created for Assam in November 1912. No legislation was undertaken during the year, but much useful work was done, all schemes of importance for the improvement of the province, of which there were many, being considered by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council. Moreover, a considerable amount of work was informally transacted between members of the Council and the Administration.

POLICE.

Military Police.

13. The Silchar and Tura detachments of the Dacca Battalion were taken over by the Assam Administration in November 1912. The Government of India have sanctioned the formation of a new Battalion for the North-East Frontier, and proposals have been submitted for the re-organisation of the whole Military Police Force of the province into four uniform Battalions.

The discipline and efficiency of the force were satisfactory and there was a marked improvement in its health.

The Dehong and Debong survey operations and the construction of the Lohit Valley road operations necessitated the employment on the frontier, for prolonged periods, of the whole of the Lakhimpur Battalion and detachments of the Naga Hills and Lushai Hills Battalions. A force of Military Police also operated in a punitive expedition on the Naga Hills frontier and subsequently took part with the 8th Gurkhas in further punitive operations on the same frontier.

Civil Police.

14. Further progress was made in the re-organisation of the Subordinate Police. The discipline and efficiency of the armed reserve were far from satisfactory. With a view to the improvement of this body the principle of separate recruitment has been sanctioned. The ordinary reserve was below the sanctioned strength in most districts but steps are being taken to remedy this defect. Proposals have been submitted to the Government of India since the close of the year for an increase in the pay of constables and head constables in both branches of the Civil Police, the present rates of pay having proved to be unattractive. The work of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors generally was unsatisfactory. The number of criminal charges against the police rose from 56 in 1911 to 85 in 1912, but convictions fell from 20 to 19.

The appointment of villagers as special constables to patrol the railway line had a most salutary effect in reducing the number of cases of stone-throwing at trains.

The Government of India have been asked to sanction a combined training college for cadets and constables.

The total cost of the Department increased by Rs. 1,21,046.

There was an increase of over 1,000 in the cases of cognizable crime reported. The increase was most marked in the case of burglaries and theft in Lakhimpur and Sibsagar and in the case of rioting in Sylhet. Forty-eight per cent. of the cases investigated were sent up for trial, and 79 per cent. of the cases sent up for trial by the police ended in conviction. The percentage of convictions in Sessions cases rose from 74 in 1911 to 81 in 1912.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

15. The Judicial staff employed was increased during the year by six stipendiary Magistrates and one Honorary Magistrate. The number of offences reported rose from 35,983 in 1911 to 39,174 in 1912, and the number of cases dealt with by the Courts from 21,259 to 22,916. Forty-four per cent. of the accused in cases tried by Magistrates were convicted. Four hundred and eighty-six persons were tried in the Sessions Courts; 346 were convicted, 132 discharged or acquitted, and the cases of 8 were referred to the High Court. The number of witnesses examined by Magistrates increased by 5,497, and of those examined in the Sessions Courts by 316. Sentences of death were passed in 8 cases, and were confirmed by the High Court in all but one, which was pending at the close of the year. On appeal the sentences of subordinate Courts were confirmed in 81 per cent. of the cases by the High Court, in 68 per cent. by the Courts of Sessions, and in 66 in District Magistrates' Courts. Plains districts.

The charges incurred by the Criminal Courts amounted to Rs. 3,42,879 and the receipts to Rs. 1,96,104.

1,419 cases were brought to trial in the hill districts and frontier tracts. 2,022 persons were accused, and 1,696 convicted. Hill districts and frontier tracts.

JAILS.

16. A reduction of the average daily jail population from 1,987 to 1,823 was attended by a marked improvement in the health of prisoners. There is, however, much room for further improvement, and this will doubtless follow from the close attention which is being paid to the health of the prisoners and to the provision of better accommodation. The nett cost per head of average strength showed a further rise of Rs. 26, owing to increased expenditure on maintenance and diminished receipts from the manufacturing department. Jails.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

17. The Civil Judicial staff of the province consisted of two District Judges, one Additional District Judge and 29 Munsifs. The number of original suits instituted rose from 34,679 in 1911 to 38,730 in 1912. The average duration of contested suits under the ordinary procedure showed a considerable improvement, but there was an increase in the duration of uncontested and Small Cause Court suits. There were 24,521 applications for execution proceedings, and 3,425 miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature. In appellate cases 75·2 per cent. of the decisions were confirmed by the High Court, and 75·8 per cent. by other Appellate Courts. Plains districts.

Receipts from Civil Courts amounted to Rs. 6,27,393 and expenditure to Rs. 2,86,408.

During the year the Chief Commissioner took special pains to see that civil court work was satisfactorily and expeditiously disposed of by a proper distribution of work among the administrative staff. He has recently, in furtherance of the same object, proposed to the Government of India the appointment of a Sub-Judge and Assistant Judge for the Assam Valley.

1,347 suits were decided in the hill districts and frontier tracts. Hill districts and frontier tracts.

REGISTRATION.

18. Registrations increased from 71,192 to 74,239. Receipts rose from Rs. 89,199 to Rs. 91,015, whilst expenditure decreased from Rs. 56,738 to Rs. 55,943. A separate cadre of Sub-Registrars was formed for the new province of Assam during the year. Registration.

The number of ceremonies registered by Muhammadan Marriage Registrars decreased by 161.

Seven new companies were registered under the Indian Companies Act. It is satisfactory to find that the propagation of mushroom insurance companies has been checked by the recent legislation.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Municipalities.

19. The incidence of municipal taxation per head of population and the local income of municipalities increased during the year, but owing to a reduction in the aggregate of Government grants, which had been abnormally large in the previous year, the total income of these bodies showed a decrease. Good progress was made with the Jorhat water-supply scheme, and a number of schemes for water-supply and drainage of other towns were initiated during the year. The appointment of a Sanitary Engineer since the close of the year is expected to result in these and similar schemes being expedited. An increase in the number of the meetings held and an improvement in the attendance thereat indicate some growth of interest in municipal affairs. Three new municipalities have been formed since the close of the year and proposals for extending some form of Municipal Government to small towns in rural areas are under consideration. Legislation with the object of bringing on to the Statute Book an Act specially suited to the conditions of the province as regards municipal administration received much attention during the year.

Local Boards.

20. Owing mainly to the Imperial grants for education and special allotments for communications and water supply which the Chief Commissioner was able to place at their disposal, there was an expansion by over seven lakhs in the income of Local Boards. Education continued to receive particular attention, 24·80 per cent. of the total income of the Boards having been devoted to this object. The number of dispensaries increased only by one during the year. Boards are in most cases spending as much as they can afford on medical relief, and several applications for assistance from provincial funds are under consideration. The Local Administration has under contemplation the opening of a large number of itinerary dispensaries. This scheme will supplement the activities of the Boards in regard to medical relief. An experiment was made in the direction of the sanitary improvement of rural areas by allotting small sums to selected villages. It met with a considerable measure of success and is being repeated on a larger scale during the current year. This experiment has been made not only with the object of making a beginning in the direction of village sanitary improvement, but also in order to pave the way to the large measure of village Local Self-Government which the Administration contemplates in the future.

As the result of a conference held in May 1912 a grant of 15 lakhs was sanctioned by the Administration for the improvement by Local Boards of communications during a period of three years. Of this sum Rs. 5,73,550 were placed at the disposal of the Boards during 1912-13. The expenditure by Local Boards on public works was, in consequence of the special allotment referred to above, nearly four and a half lakhs greater than in 1911-12. A beginning was thus made of the extensive scheme of improvement of communications which the Administration has in view. Since the close of the year an additional grant of 10 lakhs, to be spent during the remaining two years of the triennium for the same purpose, has been sanctioned as the result of a second conference held in June 1913.

A draft Local Self-Government Bill has been framed and will, it is hoped, become law in the near future. The Bill will effect an enormous improvement in the position of the Local Boards in regard to communications, and also make provision for a gradual but extensive system of village Self-Government.

MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING).

21. There was a decrease in the number of the rank and file in both Volunteer Corps of the province as compared with the previous year. The Chief Commissioner is doing his best to stimulate interest in volunteering, and it is hoped that the current year will see a marked improvement.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

Agriculture and Horticulture.

22. An agricultural supervisor and two probationary district agricultural officers were appointed from the 1st June 1913, and an agricultural chemist has since been appointed and has now joined his post. Interesting and valuable results were obtained during the year with special reference to sugarcane from experiments at the Jorhat Agricultural Station. A most promising start was made with a new experimental Fruit Farm at Shillong. A site was selected during the year for an Agricultural Station near Karimganj in the Surma Valley, and it is hoped that the Station will very shortly be at work and will enable practical experiments to be carried out with special reference to rice and jute.

Demonstrations were made in various districts in the use of bone meal and flour phosphate as manures, the superiority of improved varieties of sugarcane, the use of iron roller sugar-crushing mills, and the spraying with Bordeaux mixture as a preventive of the potato disease. Rai Bhupal Chandra Basu Bahadur has been placed on special duty to enquire into the conditions of the silk industry.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

Co-operative Societies.

23. The principal features of the year were the formation of banking and controlling unions, and the subdivision of the societies in the Assam Valley which had been constituted on a *mauza* basis into village societies. The total number of societies rose from 142 to 188, the number of members from 9,758 to 10,945, and the working capital from Rs. 4,91,411 to Rs. 5,56,098. All but four societies worked at a profit. The development of the co-operative movement demands more attention than, under the existing arrangements, can be given to it. Proposals are being formulated for the appointment of a new officer as Registrar of Co-operative Societies and Director of Industries.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Weather and crops.

24. The rainfall of the year was above the normal and was not evenly distributed, but weather conditions on the whole were favourable to rice, the most important staple of the province; bumper crops were obtained in the Surma Valley, and good ones in most districts of the Assam Valley. The outturn of rice exceeded that of the previous year by about 50,000 tons. Prices however ruled high owing to the large demand for rice outside the province. Conditions were less suitable for jute, and a decreased outturn was reported in spite of an increase in the area under this crop.

FORESTS.

Forests.

25. There was an increase of 60 square miles in the total area of reserved forests and a decrease of 113 square miles in the area of unclassed State forests. Good progress was made in surveying the forests and in opening out forest communications. A nursery for *simul* seedlings was opened in the Lakhimpur district and steps have been taken to open nurseries in Cachar for both first-class and tea-box timber trees. With the object of encouraging the tea-box trade the royalty on timber used for tea-boxes was temporarily remitted. This action was successful in increasing the output, but serious difficulties attend its working and it has been provisionally decided to limit the concession to a period of two years. The gross revenue of the department was Rs. 11,33,228 against Rs. 11,17,569 in the previous year, the principal increases being in the receipts from the sale of timber removed by purchasers and from grazing fees. The expenditure fell from Rs. 8,32,158 to Rs. 8,15,671.

MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

Te.

26. The general condition of the industry during the year under report was flourishing. The weather was exceptionally favourable and good prices were obtained

The area under tea rose from 354,716 to 361,671 acres, and the year's crop from 179,053,017 lbs. to 198,798,283 lbs.

Mines. 27. Thirteen prospecting licenses and one mining lease were issued during the year. The royalty on coal and oil amounted to Rs. 64,204.

FACTORIES.

Factories. 28. At the close of 1912 there were 16 factories in existence, employing 2,901 operatives, of whom 164 were children. The sanitary arrangements were reported to be satisfactory, and the health of the operatives was good. Four accidents, none of which were fatal, occurred. No prosecutions were instituted under the Act.

TRADE.

Rail and River-borne trade. 29. The total value of the trade of Assam with other provinces during the year under report was 1,886 lakhs of rupees, of which 599 lakhs represent imports and 1,287 lakhs represent exports. The total volume of trade decreased by 398,436 maunds, whilst the value increased by Rs. 27,33,091. The demand for rice, jute and tea was greater and higher prices were obtained than in the previous year. About 75 per cent. of the total value of exports by rail and river represents the value of tea. Thirty-one per cent. of the tea exported went to Chittagong, as compared with 27 per cent. in the previous year. A decrease in the exports of mustard seed and in the imports of mustard oil indicate increased business in the oil mills of the province. Reduced importations of husked rice, and enormously increased exports of rice and paddy reflect the general excellence of the rice crops of the year in most districts of the province.

Frontier trade. 30. The aggregate value of trade registered was Rs. 26,89,124; four new temporary registering stations were opened during the year, namely, at Sadiya in the North-East Frontier Tract, at Kokalabari in the Kamrup district, and at Orang and Behali in the Darrang district.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Public Works. 31. The total expenditure on Provincial Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department amounted to Rs. 37,26,316. Of this amount a sum of Rs. 5,20,066 was spent on original works in connection with provincial buildings and Rs. 1,64,184 on repairs. Under the head of communications the expenditure on original works and maintenance rose from Rs. 5,71,587 and Rs. 8,31,173 respectively in 1911-12 to Rs. 12,63,381 and Rs. 9,79,746 in 1912-13. These sums do not include the expenditure on works undertaken on behalf of Local Boards by the Public Works Department from the large special grants for communications placed by the Chief Commissioner at the disposal of the Boards.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

Gross revenue. 32. The gross receipts, Imperial and Provincial figures included, rose from Rs. 1,58,63,677 in 1911-12 to Rs. 1,69,42,636, whilst the gross expenditure rose from Rs. 1,27,55,408 to Rs. 1,44,18,765.

Land revenue. 33. The total ordinary land revenue demand rose from Rs. 72,36,111 to Rs. 74,55,474. Collections amounted to Rs. 71,61,756 and remissions on account of local calamities to Rs. 10,150. Collections on account of miscellaneous land revenue amounted to Rs. 6,59,180.

Salt. 34. There were two salt warehouses in the Sylhet district, at Balaganj and at Ajmiriganj. The latter was a new warehouse started during the year. The former has ceased to exist since the close of the year. Imports decreased by 20,369 maunds and nett revenue by Rs. 5,041. The wholesale price of salt remained at Rs. 2-4 per maund.

Excise. 35. The total revenue demand amounted to Rs. 47,62,593 against Rs. 44,50,807 in the preceding year. The raising of the distillery duty on country liquor from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 3-2 per L. P. gallon and the enhancement in the four upper districts of the Assam Valley of the treasury price on opium from Rs. 40 to Rs. 42 per seer were largely responsible for the increase, which represents 7 per cent. on the revenue demand of the previous year. The consumption of country spirit and of opium

rose by 3·5 and 2·9 per cent respectively, whilst that of *ganja* showed a slight decline. The duty on *ganja* will be raised to Rs. 16 per seer with effect from the 1st April 1914, and a further enhancement of the treasury price of opium in the districts of heaviest consumption is contemplated. The samples of distillery country spirit which were sent for analysis were reported to be of excellent quality and free from any deleterious substance. Local opinion as to the location of excise shops was freely consulted.

Stamps.

36. The revenue collected under the Stamp and Court Fees Acts rose from Rs. 11,85,941 to Rs. 12,80,991 during the year under report. Judicial stamps were responsible for two-thirds of the increase.

Income-tax

37. Income-tax receipts increased by 6·8 per cent. The final demand for the year was Rs. 3,27,957.

Provincial Finance.

38. The Provincial account opened with a balance of Rs. 41,96,000, including a sum of Rs. 9,13,000 on account of the share of Assam of the unspent balances of various Imperial assignments made to Eastern Bengal and Assam, for sanitation, education, and agriculture. The receipts and expenditure during the year were Rs. 1,75,67,241 and Rs. 1,40,22,560 respectively, the closing balance being Rs. 77,40,684. The budget estimates were exceeded on the receipt side by Rs. 53,87,000 and on the expenditure side by Rs. 18,30,000.

Local Funds.

39. The Local Funds of which accounts are submitted to Government started with an opening balance of Rs. 6,12,332 and ended the year with a closing balance of Rs. 8,50,103.

Local rates.

40. The total local rates demand rose from Rs. 8,57,498 to Rs. 8,74,022. Collections amounted to 90·63 per cent. of the demand.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Vital statistics.

41. The death-rate for the year rose from 23·61 to 25·04 per mille and the birth-rate from 31·84 per mille to 32·16. The ratio of mortality from fever remained high. On the whole the year was a healthy one, the excess of births over deaths being above the average for the preceding five years.

IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR INSPECTION.

Immigration.

42. The year was again a prosperous one for the tea industry, and there was a considerable increase in immigration. There was a decrease in the mortality of labourers both during transit and on the tea gardens.

Since the close of the year the Government of India have decided that the labour district provisions of Act VI of 1901 shall be withdrawn from the 1st July 1914, and that recruitment by contractors and their recruiters shall cease a year later. A Bill providing some remedy against the enticement of labour has been framed in consultation with representative employers of labour, and will, it is hoped, be introduced in the Legislative Council during the present session.

The relations between employers and employed in the tea districts were generally marked by good sense and good feeling.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

Charitable dispensaries.

43. The total number of dispensaries working at the close of the year was 205. Two travelling dispensaries, one in Kámrup and the other in Sylhet, were sanctioned. The total number of patients treated was 1,539,305 as against 1,416,555 in the preceding year. The increase of nearly 9 per cent. may fairly be attributed to the growing popularity of these institutions, as it was accompanied by a general improvement in the health of the population.

Lunatic asylums.

44. There were 186 male and 43 female lunatics in the Tezpur Asylum at the close of the year, 80 of these being criminal lunatics. The health of the inmates was not satisfactory, and considerable temporary additions have been made to the tubercular wards and the general accommodation in order to avoid overcrowding pending the reconstruction of the asylum, which has been administratively approved.

Sanitation.

45. The expenditure by municipal bodies on sanitation amounted to Rs. 2,84,513. A grant of Rs. 6,500 and a loan of Rs. 10,000 were made by Government to the Gauhati Municipality for the improvement of the Gauhati water-works, and grants of Rs. 28,244 and Rs. 22,961 were made to the Dhubri Municipality and the Golaghat Union respectively towards improved systems of water-supply for those towns. A water-supply scheme for Silchar Municipality was administratively sanctioned and a grant of Rs. 76,658 was made towards its execution; the detailed project is under preparation. A number of other schemes for water-supply and drainage in Municipal areas were initiated as the result of the Chief Commissioner's tours.

Local Boards spent Rs. 96,308 on sanitation, and received allotments aggregating Rs. 50,923 from the Sanitary Board for the improvement of the water-supply in rural areas. As a result of a conference held at Shillong in June 1913 a sum of Rs. 1,90,000 has been distributed by Government amongst the Local Boards for expenditure during the current year on water-supply, and all Boards have been required to submit five-year programmes for improving their water-supply. An experiment, which was made in attempting to interest the villagers in improving village sanitation by the distribution of small grants to be spent by themselves on this object, met with a considerable measure of success and is being repeated on a larger scale during the current year.

The enquiry into the nature and cause of *kala-azar* continued, and a scheme has been worked out by the Sanitary Commissioner for arresting the threatened recrudescence of the disease. A scheme has been administratively sanctioned for the enlargement of the Sylhet Leper Asylum, and the Chief Commissioner is at present considering the necessity of establishing a second Leper Asylum in the Assam Valley.

VACCINATION.

Vaccination.

46. During the year under review the number of operations performed was 333,363 against 305,845 in the preceding year. The increase occurred mainly in the Sylhet, Kamrup, Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Cachar districts. The rate of mortality from small-pox was ·67 per mille against ·35 in the previous year. There was an increased prevalence of the disease in Kamrup and in Sylhet town.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

Education.

47. Expenditure on education rose from Rs. 16,09,062 in 1911-12 to Rs. 19,03,954 in the year under review. The number of pupils in attendance increased from 182,112 to 194,288, or by 6·7 per cent. Students in Colleges rose from 295 to 360; in High schools from 8,924 to 10,337; in Middle English schools from 10,922 to 12,638; in Middle Vernacular schools from 2,753 to 2,796; and in boys' Primary schools from 141,748 to 148,278. The increase was most marked in the case of Middle English, and least marked in the case of Middle Vernacular schools.

Negotiations were entered into for the transfer of the majority of the aided High Schools to State control, and the transfer will in several cases take effect from the 1st January 1914. In the larger part of Assam, Government is in the position of the landlord, and the Chief Commissioner has, therefore, decided that Government must take a more active and liberal part in the organisation of education than it does in permanently-settled areas. The removal of the disabilities at present affecting vernacular education beyond the Lower Primary standard was under consideration during the year, and fees have since been abolished in Middle Vernacular and Upper Primary schools.

There was an increase in the enrolment both at Tols and at Madrassas during the year.

The number of schools for girls rose from 252 to 268, and the number of pupils from 17,931 to 19,085. The Mission Girls' School at Silchar was raised to the High school standard.

Considerable improvements were effected in the two European Girls' Schools at Shillong, and negotiations were in progress for the establishment of a Secondary European boys' School at Shillong and an elementary School for Europeans at Haflong.

There was an increase in the number of students in the Medical School at Dibrugarh and in the Law Class at Gauhati. Schemes for the establishment of a second Medical School at Sylhet and for a Law College at Gauhati are under consideration, and the latter project has received the approval of the Government of India.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

48. The number of publications received and catalogued was 44 against 37 in the preceding year. Literature and the Press.

Fourteen newspapers were published, their tone being generally unobjectionable.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

49. Three temples at Sibsagar, and one temple at Rangpur in the same district, were declared protected monuments under Act VII of 1904. Special repairs were undertaken by the Public Works Department to Ahom temples at Negriting and Jaisagar, and to the Kachari monuments at Dimapur. As a result of his visit to Tezpur in 1912, a strong local committee has been appointed to advise the Chief Commissioner as to what steps should be taken to procure the very interesting stone carvings which are to be found there, and the services of an officer of the Archæological Department have also been asked for to help the committee. Archæology.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLAENOUS.

VETERINARY.

50. There was a reduction in the mortality from cattle-disease in spite of a severe outbreak of rinderpest in the Dibrugarh subdivision. The number of cases treated by the itinerary staff for non-contagious diseases showed a large increase. Improved arrangements for reporting outbreaks of cattle-disease were introduced. Veterinary.

The staff, which was increased by one Inspector and five assistants during the year, still falls considerably short of the sanctioned cadre, and candidates to fill the vacancies are unfortunately not at present forthcoming. The Local Administration has agreed to assist certain of the Local Boards with a grant to cover the cost of maintenance of a second Veterinary Assistant, a minimum of two Veterinary Assistants to each Local Board having been fixed as required to meet the needs of the province.

PART II.

THE REPORT.

PART II.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT.

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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF ASSAM

FOR THE YEAR

1912-1913.

PART II.—Report.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

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SECTION 1.—Physical Features of the Country, Area, Climate and Chief Staples.
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SECTION 6.—Details of the last Census, Tribes and Languages

[*See* General Administration Report for 1911-1912, Part II, pages 1—75.]

SECTION 7.—Changes in the Administration.

Changes in the Administration.

1. After being for six and a half years included in the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, Assam was, with effect from the 1st April 1912, reconstituted as a separate province, Sir Archdale Earle, K.C.I.E., being the first Chief Commissioner. It was recognised that in all branches of administration a larger staff of officers was required than had been employed before the formation of the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. Assam has now two Divisional Commissioners, and there are three Secretaries to the Chief Commissioner. The number of Heads of Departments has been increased. Police and Education form separate charges. The Inspector General of Civil Hospitals is in charge of Sanitation and Jails besides being the head of the Medical Department. One officer is in charge of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, and another of Excise, Registration and Co-operative Societies. The Public Works Department has a Superintending Engineer in addition to a Chief Engineer, and there are two Conservators of Forests. The cadres of all the services have been strengthened.

By a notification of the Government of India a Legislative Council for Assam is created in November 1912. The Council consists ordinarily of eleven members elected by the various communities in the province, and of thirteen nominated members, of whom not more than nine may be officials. Assam is represented on the Legislative Council of the Governor General by two members, one of whom is elected by the non-official members of the Assam Legislative Council, while the other is an official nominated by the Chief Commissioner.

The North-East Frontier Tract, over which the Assam Administration now exercises a measure of loose political control, has been formed into two sections, each in charge of a Political Officer. The formation of these frontier districts has not yet been formally notified, nor have their boundaries been accurately defined.

SECTION 8.—Frontier Relations and Feudatory States.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1911-1912, Part II, pages 76—85.]

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

SECTION 9.—Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

FEUDATORY STATES.

MANIPUR.

[Tribute:—Rupees 50,000 annually. Population (1911) 346,222. Gross revenue (average for last five years) Rs. 4,89,845. Military:—Two hundred and thirty Military Police. Products:—Rice, *dal*, vegetables, rubber, wax, tea-seed and other forest products, ponies, cattle and buffaloes. Manufactures:—Cotton cloth, silk cloth, brass and other metal utensils, a few articles of ivory and jewellery, some leather work and coarse salt. Minerals:—Iron, limestone, copper and salt, but iron and copper are not worked.

[Raja:—His Highness Raja Chura Chand Singh, aged 27 years; caste Kshatriya. The Raja has two sons by his second wife, Rani Chingakhom Syama Sakhi, the first aged 5 years and the second 2 years, two daughters by his first wife, Rani Ngangbom Dhanamanjuri Ibemacha, and one daughter by his third wife, Rani Ngangbom Preo Sakhi.]

General. 2. Towards the close of the year the public peace was considerably disturbed by a widespread agitation against the system known as *pothang*, by which roads and schools are kept up by village labour and touring officials have their things carried from village to village. Proposals providing for the total abolition of the *pothang* system and the substitution of travelling allowances and grants for road and school repairs were submitted and sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner since the close of the year.

During the year 52 unlicensed guns and 12 licensed guns were confiscated. There were at the end of the year 932 licensed guns in the State.

Hill tribes. 3. The conduct of the Hill tribes was generally satisfactory, and the tribes in the unadministered tract, north-east of the State, gave no trouble during the year under report.

Administration of the land revenue. 4. During the year 4,937 *bighas* of waste land were taken up for cultivation and 2,451 *bighas* were relinquished. The current demand of the year was Rs. 3,27,792 and the percentage of collection 96·42. The total arrears at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 16,695.

House-tax was levied at the same rates as in former years, *viz.*, Rs. 3 on all houses in the hills and annas 10 on the houses of all Nagas and Kukis cultivating land in the valley of Jiribam. The current demand was Rs. 67,672 as against Rs. 70,111 in the preceding year. The total demand was Rs. 72,642, of which Rs. 64,419 were collected. Some Kuki villages were not pressed for payment on account of scarcity which prevailed in the south-western hills.

Production and Trade. 5. The rainfall of the year was well above the normal, but was very seasonable The transplanting of rice on low lands was somewhat retarded by floods, which also damaged the seedlings in some places. No very serious loss, however, resulted from this cause, but an epidemic of rinderpest among the plough cattle resulted in a considerable area remaining uncultivated. The scarcity in the south-western hills, mentioned in the previous year's report, instead of abating, somewhat increased in severity. The rice crop again failed owing to the ravages of rats. The maize and millet crops were also attacked by rats, the former being almost completely destroyed and only a small portion of the latter harvested. Arrangements were being made at the close of the year to send up sufficient rice to support the people until the coming maize and millet harvest. The State distributed 9,016 maunds of rice during the year.

The price of rice was a little higher than in the previous year and much above the normal.

The Directors of the Manipur Company, Limited, not seeing any immediate prospect of working their silk venture at a profit, wound up their affairs. Under their agreement, the mulberry trees and *kutcha* buildings reverted to the State. The Darbar decided to continue the experiment, hoping it might be possible to make the venture pay. Weaving is a considerable industry in Manipur, but the school for the training of women in the use of improved hand looms has so far produced no useful result. An agreement for the working and extraction of teak on the Burma border was concluded with the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, during the year.

During the year 74,041 maunds of rice, 2,839 cattle (including buffaloes), and 72 ponies were exported, but the majority of the cattle and ponies exported were bought from Burma.

Administration of justice. 6. The number of offences reported rose from 628 in the previous year to 656. There were in all 1,102 persons on trial before the several criminal courts, of whom 252 were convicted and 649 acquitted or discharged. There were 82 appeals, of which

33 were totally unsuccessful, while the lower courts' decisions were modified in 17 and reversed in 19 cases. A further enquiry was ordered in 2 cases and in 6 the proceedings were quashed. There were 2,718 suits for disposal of the civil courts, of which 2,365 of a total value of Rs. 82,097 were decided. There were 439 appeals, of which 356 were disposed of, resulting in the lower courts' orders being confirmed in 212, modified in 38, and reversed in 64 cases, the remainder being remanded for retrial, compromised or otherwise disposed of.

Finance.

7. The gross total revenue of the State was Rs. 5,08,133 as against Rs. 5,18,626 in the preceding year. The decrease is mainly due to a fall in receipts under the heads "Export taxes on rice, cattle, etc.," "Forests," and "Hill tribes." The export taxes on rice and cattle realised Rs. 15,000 against Rs. 27,000 in 1911-12, and the receipts under Forests and Hill tribes fell from Rs. 25,700 and Rs. 69,100 to Rs. 21,700 and Rs. 64,400, respectively. On the other hand, the heads "Law and Justice," "Excise" and "Miscellaneous" showed increases.

The total expenditure was Rs. 6,22,731 as against Rs. 5,46,795 in the previous year. The increase is due to the construction of the Imphal water-works and the purchase of rice for villages in the hills suffering from scarcity. Out of a total expenditure of Rs. 1,49,632 on the water-works, Rs. 1,00,000 was met from the loan taken from Government and the balance from the revenue of the year. At the close of the year the State was indebted to Government to the extent of Rs. 1,00,000. The closing balance was Rs. 2,88,358 as against Rs. 3,02,956 in the previous year.

Medical and Sanitation.

8. A new dispensary was opened at Bishenpur. The water-works at Imphal are nearing completion.

Education and Miscellaneous.

9. There were no changes in the educational arrangements. The cost to the State of education was on all accounts Rs. 38,613 compared with Rs. 36,135 in the preceding year.

The Veterinary Assistant treated 2,754 animals as against 2,207 in the previous year. Rinderpest broke out at the close of the previous year and prevailed up to the beginning of the cold weather.

FRONTIER TRIBES.

General.

10. The year under review was a very eventful one in the history of the Frontier Administration of the province. Attention was directed mainly to the North-East Frontier and the policy to be followed to secure its more effective control. To this end several important measures were introduced with the sanction of the Government of India. A separate district was formed comprising the tribal area on the frontier east of the Subansiri-Siyom divide, and consisting of two sections, Eastern and Central, under the control of a Political Officer working directly under the Chief Commissioner. Survey operations and road construction on an extensive scale were undertaken and were still in progress when the year closed. Sanction was also accorded to the appointment of a Political Officer to have charge of the section of the frontier west of the Subansiri-Siyom divide, and effect has been given to the orders since the close of the year.

Bhutias.

11. The usual fair was held at Darranga. A considerable increase in trade was reported. *Posa* amounting to Rs. 5,000 was distributed to the Bhutia Gallengs at the annual Darbar at Udalguri, and the Charduar and the Thebengia Bhutias received their *posa* amounting, respectively, to Rs. 2,526-7-0, and Rs. 145-13-6 in Tezpur. In each case the customary presents were exchanged.

Akas.

12. The Hazarikhoa and Kapaschors received their *posa* amounting to Rs. 164 and Rs. 536, respectively, in Tezpur, and exchanged the usual presents with the Deputy Commissioner.

Daflas.

13. The number of Daflas on the Darrang Frontier who came down to receive their *posa* was rather less than in 1911-12, good crops in the hills being responsible for the smaller attendance. The *posa* distributed to them amounted to Rs. 3,717-9-1. The conduct of the Daflas was good. The man who was imprisoned in the previous year for kidnapping a coolie and detaining him as a slave effected his escape and is still at large. Nyiri Gam, a hill Dafla, carried away the wife of a plains settler. Two of Nyiri's dependents have been arrested on suspicion, but Nyiri himself escaped to the hills and has not yet given himself up. His *posa* allowance in the meantime has been suspended. Thirteen Daflas were allowed to settle in the plains.

Miris and Apa Tanangs.

14. The usual peaceful intercourse and trade with the Apa Tanangs was uninterrupted and the conduct of the hill Miris was good.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

Abors.

15. In January a survey party escorted by a force of Military Police and accompanied by the Political Officer, Central and Eastern Sections, North-East Frontier, entered the Abor Hills to complete the survey begun in the previous year. The survey operations were concluded after the close of the year.

The Abors have given no trouble since the punitive expedition of the preceding year. A trade post was established at Pasighat, and it is proposed that another should be opened at or near Rotung. Military Police outposts were established at Kobo, Pasighat, and Balek.

Mishmis.

16. A survey party escorted by a Military Police force and accompanied by a Political Officer was engaged in mapping in the area drained by the Dibong river and its tributaries. The operations were completed after the close of the year. A company of Sappers and Miners and a double company of Pioneers were employed in improving the track from Nizamghat northwards. These troops were, however, recalled in January to assist the Lohit Valley Road Party, which was entrusted with the construction of a road from Sunpura to Walong. Rapid progress was made, but heavy rainfall and floods caused extensive damage to the road and compelled the sudden withdrawal of the party.

The conduct of the various Mishmi tribes was good.

Hkamtis, Singphos and Rangpang Nagas.

17. The Assistant Political Officer made a tour through the country south of the Lohit as far as the Turang river to the south and the Noa Dihing to the east, and visited the whole of the Singphos and Hkamti country and so much of the Rangpang Naga country as falls within the newly-constituted North-East Frontier district.

Nagas.

18. The conduct of the Bardurias, Namsangias, and Bormithunias was good, and parties came down, as usual, in the cold weather to cut jungle on tea gardens.

Naga Hills.

19. On the Naga Hills frontier a punitive expedition was despatched to punish Chinglong, a trans-frontier village, for an outrage committed on certain British subjects of the village of Wanching lying within the newly-annexed area. The offending village assisted by the allied villages of the Tautak group attacked and inflicted loss on the column, and this necessitated the despatch of a second and stronger force, which inflicted summary punishment on the villages concerned and secured the peace of the frontier. The Deputy Commissioner subsequently made a tour through the trans-Dikhu territory and visited all the villages in the recently-annexed area. A Military Police post has been established at Wakching in this area.

Garo Hills.

20. The Garos were quiet and well behaved during the year.

Lushai Hills.

21. The southern boundary as approved by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam was demarcated by the Subdivisional Officer, Lungleh.

Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

22. Politically the year was uneventful.

SECTION 10.—Condition of the people.

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1912-13.]

Condition of the people.

23. The general conditions of the year were, on the whole, favourable to agriculture. The outturn of the winter rice crop was above the average in the districts of Cachar and Sylhet and was generally normal or above the normal throughout the Assam Valley Division. In the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, a drought in May followed by heavy and continuous downpours in June adversely affected the potato crop. In the Naga Hills and the Lushai Hills standing crops were again damaged by rats, though less seriously than in the preceding year. The weather was specially favourable to tea in both the Valleys and to lac cultivation in the Hills of Nowgong. The outturn of jute was good.

The condition of the cultivating and labouring classes was good in all the plains districts except Sibsagar and Lakhimpur. In parts of Sibsagar agriculturists were adversely affected by the floods of July 1912 and the consequent poor outturn of the rice crop; and in Lakhimpur heavy losses were caused by a severe outbreak of cattle-disease. In the North Cachar Hills and parts of the Naga Hills the people were badly off by reason of the failure of crops in two successive years. The situation in the Lushai Hills showed a slight improvement. The wages of labourers remained high throughout the province and the prices of the principal food stuffs ruled high in all districts except the Garo Hills, where a good harvest and the difficulties of transport combined to reduce prices.

The flow of immigration continued from Eastern Bengal districts and particularly from Mymensingh, into Goalpara, Nowgong and the Sunamganj subdivision of Sylhet, where considerable tracts of fertile waste land still await reclamation. Santhals are still migrating to the Eastern Duars in Goalpara from Jalpaiguri and large numbers of professional graziers have also migrated to Assam from Jalpaiguri owing to the rise in the rate of grazing dues in that district. The migration of settlers from the more thickly-populated parts of Cachar and Sylhet to several mauzas of the district of Nowgong continued.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

SECTION 1.—Realisation of the Revenue.

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1912-1913.]

24. An account of the total demand and collection of land revenue will be found under Chapter V— "Revenue and Finance."

During the year there was an addition of 67·8 square miles to the revenue-paying area and the revenue demand rose from Rs. 69,37,552 to Rs. 70,88,737.

The incidence of revenue per square mile at the end of 1912-13 was Rs. 581·18, as compared with Rs. 571·98 in the previous year.

Permanently-settled estates.

25. There was no change in the area and revenue demand of the permanently-settled estates in the Assam Valley Division. In the Surma Valley the area of these estates decreased from 2,410,976 acres to 2,410,801 acres and the revenue from Rs. 3,65,123 to Rs. 3,65,067, owing to the acquisition of land for public purposes and to the purchase of twelve estates by Government at public auction for arrears of revenue and their consequent transfer to the temporarily-settled class. Of the total revenue demand of Rs. 4,71,038 due in respect of these estates, a balance of Rs. 84,465 remained outstanding at the close of the year. Sylhet alone is responsible for the whole of the balance, which is attributable to the fact that the main *kists* in this district fall in April and May and leave insufficient time for coercive measures before the close of the year. The current collections in that district, however, rose from 74·40 per cent. to 77·85 per cent. The question of altering the *kists* is under consideration.

Temporarily-settled estates.

26. The total area of temporarily-settled estates rose from 3,419,331 acres to 3,479,196 acres and the revenue assessed thereon from Rs. 62,52,802 to Rs. 63,64,051. Collections showed a very slight improvement, 97 per cent. of the current and 94·64 per cent. of the arrear demand being realised as against 96·71 per cent. and 94·25 per cent., respectively, in the preceding year. There was considerable falling off in the percentage of collections in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, *viz.*, from 99·03 to 64·28, owing to the late issue of the new pattas necessitated by the re-settlement of *rajhali* lands in the Jowai subdivision. The colonisation by Santhals, Nepalese and other settlers of the Eastern Duars of Goalpara showed some improvement, the area settled with them being 16,541 acres as against 13,099 acres in 1911-12. Under special settlements there was a decrease of 24 acres in area and an increase of Rs. 2,638 in revenue. The decrease in area was due to the fact that in the preceding year the figures for town lands of the Lushai Hills were wrongly included in this class, and the increase in revenue was chiefly due to new settlements with tea-garden managers for allotments to their coolies. The progress of colonisation in the Nambor Forest showed but little improvement, the total area taken up amounting only to 1,343 acres, of which 925 acres have been brought under cultivation and assessed to land revenue and local rates.

Hill districts.

27. In the hill districts the total number of estates rose from 12,694 to 12,847 and the total revenue demand from Rs. 68,568 to Rs. 72,269. The total collections rose from Rs. 45,631 to Rs. 46,505 during the year.

Remittances of revenue and local rates by special money-orders.

28. The system of remitting revenue and local rates by special money-order is in force in Sylhet only. The number of such money-orders fell from 3,258 to 3,152, whilst the amount covered by them rose from Rs. 9,680 to Rs. 9,848.

Coercive means employed for the collection of land revenue.

29. The number of estates against which notices of demand were issued rose from 57,923 to 60,842 and attachments of property from 28,593 to 33,835. The number of cases in which notice of sale was issued increased from 12,459 to 15,051. Thsi increase occurred entirely in Sylhet and was due to the partial failure of crops in certain parts of the Jaintia parganas in the previous year. The actual sales of moveables and immoveables increased from 246 and 524, respectively, to 276 and 602 during the year. Sylhet, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur contributed to the increase.

Serving of process.

30. The total number of processes served rose from 181,667 to 187,661 and the amount of the process-fees realised from Rs. 1,27,235 to Rs. 1,37,259 during the year. There was a considerable increase in the cost of the process-serving establishment, *viz.*, from Rs. 60,134 to Rs. 64,170, owing partly to the encashment during the year of certain arrear bills and partly to the increase in the number of both paid and unpaid processes served. Realisation from process-fees, however, exceeded the cost of the establishment by Rs. 73,089.

31. The total demand on account of miscellaneous land revenue was Rs. 6,75,312 or Rs. 39,497 more than in the preceding year. Collections were fairly good, Rs. 6,59,180 or 97·61 per cent. being realised, as against Rs. 6,22,599 or 97·92 per cent. in 1911-12. The increase was most marked in the case of "sale of waste land leases" and "survey fees." Miscellaneous land revenue including hill districts.

32. No loans were made under the Land Improvement Loans Act. The total loans advanced under the Agriculturists' Loans Act amounted to Rs. 2,67,991 against Rs. 3,88,271 in the preceding year, and the amount outstanding at the commencement of the year was Rs. 4,40,575. Of the total debit of Rs. 7,08,566, the amount due for collection within the year was Rs. 69,978, of which Rs. 51,724 were collected and Rs. 82 remitted. Loans.

33. In Kamrup a considerable portion of the area damaged by the earthquake of 1897 has been reclaimed in mauzas Hajo and Uparbarbhag owing to the opening of the Moamarijan. Some progress has also been made in draining the country water-logged by the Pagladia below Nalbari. The Kharai *bund* in the district of Darrang was kept in good condition throughout the year. An endeavour was made to prevent the erosion of the river bank along the red road in Dibrugarh town and about Rs. 30,000 were spent thereon. The work did not, however, meet with success and the river has again cut badly into the bank. Other revenue work.

34. Omitting summary partitions effected on the spot under Rule 203 of the Assam Land Records Manual, the number of partition cases instituted during the year rose from 244 to 304. Including 196 cases pending from the previous year, there were in all 500 cases for disposal, of which 247 were disposed of during the year, 253 remaining pending. Partitions.

SECTION 2.—Surveys and Settlements.

[*See* Reports on the Survey and Settlement Operations in Assam for the year ending the 30th September 1913.]

35 During the year under report, the office of the Director of Surveys, Bengal and Assam, was removed from Shillong to Calcutta, and a proposal was submitted to the Government of India for the recruitment of an Imperial Officer of the Survey of India as Second Assistant Director of Surveys. The proposal was sanctioned by the Supreme Government after the close of the year. Preliminary arrangements are in progress for starting a central Survey school for the province at a site in the neighbourhood of Gauhati. The Royal Humane Society's Medal for saving life was presented to Tindal Abad of the Assam Survey Party during the year. Survey.

The survey programme in the Lakhimpur district consisted of the skeleton survey of 37 tea grants. It was only found possible to traverse 22 grants. In Kamrup the traverse of some extension survey area was carried out. The relaying of boundaries was undertaken in some other districts.

36. In May 1913, the Director of Surveys called a meeting of the Government approved surveyors of the province at Gauhati in which the new rules sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner for the guidance of such surveyors were discussed. The opportunity was also taken to discuss survey matters in the province generally. Several important points recorded in the proceedings of the conference are under the consideration of this Administration.

37. The Shillong Drawing Office printed for Assam 48,564 copies of maps, of which 13,600 were village maps.

38. The preliminary report on the resettlement of the Dibrugarh town was submitted to the Local Administration in September 1912. Representations were subsequently received from various residents of the town against the rates of assessment proposed by the local officers. The Chief Commissioner then directed the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, to visit Dibrugarh and consider the memorials with the Deputy Commissioner and the Director of Land Records on the spot, after giving an opportunity to the leading memorialists to represent their case personally. This was done and, on receipt of the Commissioner's views, the Chief Commissioner sanctioned the classification of sites and rates of assessment in September 1913. The revenue calculation is now in progress and a final report showing the result of the resettlement is awaited. Settlement.

39. The question of the resettlement of the three khas Duars—Chirang, Ripu and Guma in the district of Goalpara was considered during the year and orders issued for a regular survey and resettlement of the Guma Duar. Proposals for the resettlement of the Bijni and Sidli Duars with the Rani of Bijni and the Raja of Sidli, respectively, are under the consideration of the Local Administration.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

40. The current settlement of the Cachar district expires on the 1st April 1915. During the year under report, Mr. W. L. Scott was deputed to enquire into the economic conditions of the people and the state of records and to report on the desirability of revising the settlement or extending it for another term of years. On receipt of his report and the recommendations of the local officers re-settlement operations were sanctioned and a Settlement Officer appointed. The leases of the last batch of *jangalburi* mahals in Cachar, consisting of 25 estates and covering an area of 1·3 square miles, fell in on the 31st March 1913. The estates were re-settled by the Deputy Commissioner.

41. During the year good progress was made in the resettlement of the 2,450 Nankarpatwarigiri and other temporarily-settled estates in Sylhet.

42. The important question of the survey and preparation of a record-of-rights for the permanently-settled areas of the Sylhet district has frequently been discussed in the past, but no final decision was reached owing to conflicting opinions as to the difficulties likely to be encountered and uncertainty as to the actual requirements. In order to enable him to arrive at a decision in regard to this question, the Chief Commissioner summoned a conference of officers having special knowledge of the subject, and in accordance with their opinion moved the Government of India to sanction in the first instance experimental operations over a limited, but typical area, consisting of parganas Renga, Dakhinkach and Baraya, in the sadr subdivision of Sylhet, covering an area of 94·6 square miles approximately. The Government of India have accorded sanction to the proposal and arrangements are in progress to commence settlement operations from the field season of 1914-15.

43. Extension surveys were carried out by the Land Records Agency in six districts, the actual area surveyed being 106 square miles.

SECTION 3.—Land Records.

Land Records.

44. During the year under report no change was made in the sanctioned strength of mandals and patwaris for the province. Strenuous efforts were made to secure resident mandals for all the lots and as a result the number of recorders who now reside in their lots or have been exempted from residence has increased by 83. The sanctioned number of Supervisor Kanungos also remained unchanged, *viz.*, 46 in the first grade and 25 in the second grade, besides the Mauzadar Kanungo of the Eastern Duars who receives Rs. 25 a month for the supervision of land records work in his mauza.

SECTION 4.—Settlement for special cultivation (waste lands).

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1912-1913.]

Settlement for special cultivation.

45. The total area settled for special cultivation was 1,138,471 acres with a revenue demand of Rs. 7,19,426. There was a net increase of 2,212 acres or ·19 per cent. in area, and of Rs. 36,641, or 5·36 per cent. in revenue, as compared with the previous year. The expansion in revenue was largely due to the resettlement at enhanced rates of expired 30-year grants.

SECTION 5.—Government Estates.

Nil.

SECTION 6.—Wards' Estates.

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1912-1913.]

Revenue, rent and cesses.

46. The total number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards was 9, including the following 4 estates the management of which was undertaken during the year under report :—

(i) Estate of Mufti Nuruddin Muhammad of Sylhet.

(ii) Estate of Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ahiya of Sylhet.

(iii) Sylhet portion of the estate of Sir Sourindra Mohan Tagore of Calcutta.

(iv) Sylhet portion of the estate of Kumar Upendra Chandra Chaudhuri of Golokpur in the district of Mymensingh.

No estate was released during the year. Accurate figures for the estate of Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ahiya, which was under the management only for a short period during the year, are not available and the information relating to that estate is not therefore included in this report.

The total revenue and cesses payable, including an arrear of Rs. 441 due to Government, was Rs. 22,156. Payments amounted to Rs. 21,380, or 98·5 per cent. on the current demand, as compared with 100·6 per cent. in the preceding year. Payments on account of rent and cesses to superior landlords were made in full.

47. The total demand on account of rents and cesses due to all the estates, including an arrear demand of Rs. 2,63,036, amounted to Rs. 5,33,565. Of this sum, Rs. 2,79,895, or 103·4 per cent. on the current demand, as against 80·5 per cent. in 1911-12, were collected and Rs. 40,686 remitted as being barred or otherwise irrecoverable. The balances outstanding at the end of the year aggregated Rs. 2,12,984, or 78·8 per cent. on the current demand, as compared with 94·9 per cent. in the previous year. There has been an improvement in the collections of all estates except the Golam Rabbani estate. The wards of this estate now wish to have it released on repayment of the loan taken from the Countess of Dufferin Fund and a conditional order to that effect has recently been passed. Collections.

48. Debts of the Kumar Gopika Raman Ray estate which carried a high rate of interest were consolidated by a loan of 4 lakhs from the Countess of Dufferin Fund and the debts of this estate were further reduced by payment and compromise by Rs. 65,263. The estates of Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ahiya and Mufti Nuruddin Muhammad are heavily involved in debt, as are also those of Sir Sourindra Mohan Tagore and Kumar Upendra Chandra Chaudhuri. Debts.

49. The percentage of the cost of management on the current demand was 16·0 against 14·7 in the previous year. The increase was due to the fact that the revised system of management, introduced in the middle of the previous year, was in force throughout the year. The small Pallakandi estate is now under the direct management of the General Manager and the cost has been reduced to 18·6 from 25·8 in the previous year by the abolition of the post of Assistant Manager. The Prithimpassa estate is the only estate which was able to afford a liberal expenditure on schools, dispensaries and other works of utility. The education of the minor wards was carefully attended to. Management charges and improvements.

SECTION 7.—Revenue and Rent-paying classes.

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1912-1913.]

50. The condition of the cultivating and labouring classes was good in all the plains districts except Sibsagar and Lakhimpur. In parts of Sibsagar agriculturists were adversely affected by the floods of July 1912, and the consequent poor outturn of the rice crop; and in Lakhimpur heavy losses were caused by a severe outbreak of cattle-disease. In the North Cachar Hills and parts of the Naga Hills the people were badly off by reason of the failure of crops in two successive years. Conditions in the Lushai Hills showed a slight improvement. The wages of labourers remained high throughout the province and the prices of the principal food stuffs ruled high in all districts except the Garo Hills, where a good harvest and difficulties of transport combined to reduce prices. Material condition of the people.

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

SECTION 1.—Legislative Authority.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1911-1912, Part II, pages 92-94.]

SECTION 2.—Course of Legislation.

51. In November 1912, a Legislative Council was created for Assam. Its constitution and powers were described in Chapter III, Section I of the Report published last year. During the year 1912-13, the Eastern Bengal and Assam Military Police Act, III of 1912, was declared to be in force in Assam, the Bengal Municipal Act, III of 1884, was extended to the Municipality of Silchar, and the provisions of Part X of the same Act were extended to the Sylhet Municipality.

SECTION 3.—Police.

MILITARY POLICE.

Strength.

52. The Silchar and Tura detachments, which were formerly incorporated with the Dacca Battalion, were taken over by the Assam Administration in November 1912 and were maintained as separate units pending their amalgamation with one or other of the Assam Battalions. The sanction of the Government of India was accorded during the year to the formation of a new Battalion for the North-East Frontier, and proposals were submitted to that Government after the close of the year for the reorganization of the whole Military Police Force of the province into four uniform Battalions of equal strength.

Efficiency.

53. The absence during the year of a large proportion of the total Military Police force on special frontier operations interfered with the ordinary drill and musketry courses, but the practical experience gained in these operations will be of far greater value than barrack-square instruction. The discipline of the force was good.

Casualties.

54. The number of retirements on pension rose from 33 in the previous year to 62, the increase being attributed to the hardships experienced on the frontier operations. Casualties of other kinds showed a decrease.

Health.

55. A slight increase occurred in the number of deaths as the result of exposure on the Abor expedition, but the general health of the force showed a marked improvement, the percentage of admissions into hospital falling from 99·63 to 70·37.

Military operations.

56. The active policy pursued on the North-East Frontier subjected the Military Police to a severe strain and tested very thoroughly their worth as a frontier force. The Abor Expedition and the Miri and Mishmi Missions carried out at the close of 1911-12 and the Dehong and Debong Survey operations, and the construction of the Lohit Valley road undertaken during the year under report, necessitated the employment on the frontier, for prolonged periods, of the whole of the Lakhimpur Battalion and detachments of the Naga Hills and Lushai Hills Battalions. Serving under conditions which involved considerable hardships and exposure, the force acquitted itself well and the conduct of both officers and men was highly commended. The demands occasioned by these expeditions necessitated the temporary abandonment of some outposts, while for others the services of a wing of the 1-8th Gurkhas were placed at the disposal of the Administration by the Government of India. An outrage committed in British territory on the Naga Hills frontier necessitated the despatch of a punitive force of military police against the offending village. A group of allied villages combined to offer resistance and by a sudden attack on the rear guard compelled the column to retire. A stronger force composed of regulars and military police was promptly sent out, and signal punishment was inflicted on all the villages concerned in the attack.

CIVIL POLICE.

Strength.

57. Further progress was made in the reorganization of the subordinate civil police, and during 1912 the force was strengthened by the addition of 3 Inspectors, 7 Sub-Inspectors, 1 European Sergeant, 12 head constables and 152 constables.

58. The discipline and efficiency of the armed reserve was far from satisfactory. The system of joint recruitment for the armed and unarmed branches of the force has been proved to be a failure. The men prefer the easier thana life and are discontented and inefficient during their period of service in the armed reserve. For the functions required of the armed branch, a well organized body of men, recruited mainly from up-country, is essential, and separate recruitment and higher rates of pay are necessary to remove the existing unpopularity and inefficiency of the armed reserve. The principle of separate recruitment has already been sanctioned, and proposals for an increase of pay have since the close of the year been submitted to the Government of India. The Reserves.

The ordinary reserve proved to be inadequate in most districts, and steps will be taken to bring the force up to the full sanctioned strength sanctioned under the reorganization scheme.

59. For some years serious and ever-increasing difficulty has been experienced in obtaining recruits. The Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam deputed a special officer to enquire into the causes of this difficulty, and his report showed that it was due almost entirely to the inadequacy of the pay offered. To this cause also is to be attributed the want of discipline which is largely in evidence, as the pay is not sufficient to induce the men to submit to strict discipline in order to retain their appointments. An increase in the pay of constables and head constables is urgently needed to improve recruitment and discipline, and proposals to that effect have since the close of the year been submitted to the Government of India. Recruitment and efficiency.

The work of Circle Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors generally was not satisfactory. They were inclined to overlook the shortcomings of their subordinates, to shirk responsibility, and to fail to realise the duties of their position. A stricter selection of officers for promotion, closer supervision and supersession and reversion where necessary must be enforced.

60. The number of judicial punishments rose from 40 to 47, but no officer of or above the rank of Sub-Inspector was judicially punished and no civil suit was instituted against the police. Departmental punishments showed a slight reduction. The number of criminal charges brought against the police rose from 56 in 1911 to 85 in the year under report, but the number of convictions fell from 20 to 19, an indication of an increasing tendency towards the preferring of unfounded or frivolous charges against the police. The cases which ended in conviction were, with the exception of one case of bribery, of minor offences. Conduct.

61. An increase in the number of running train thefts was reported, but this was attributed to better reporting and not to an actual increase of crime. Cases of placing obstructions on the line occurred more frequently, though none was of a serious nature, but there was a marked reduction in the number of cases of stone throwing at trains, the appointment of villagers as special constables to patrol the line having had a most salutary effect. Railway Police.

62. During the year under report Assam had no river police of its own, but the Bengal River Police maintained two stations in this province, one on the Surma river and the other on the Meghna. It has been decided that launches for patrol duty on the rivers will be maintained by this Administration. River Police.

63. The only training institution in Assam is the school for constables at Silchar. Probationary Assistant and Deputy Superintendents are at present trained in Bengal, while Probationary Sub-Inspectors have to be trained in the districts. The Government of India have been asked to sanction the creation of a combined college for the training of cadets and constables. Training Schools.

64. Rural police exist at present only in three districts of the province, and the question of introducing them into other districts is now under consideration. Rural Police.

65. The total net cost of the department increased by Rs. 1,21,046, which was due partly to the additions to the strength of the force and partly to the creation of separate headquarters offices in Shillong on the reconstitution of the province. Finance.

66. There was an increase of over 1,000 in the cases of cognizable crime reported during the year. Of the total number of cases for disposal by the police, 85·5 per cent. were investigated, as compared with 80·4 in 1911. Of the cases investigated, 47·4 per cent. were sent up for trial, as compared with 48·4 in the previous year. Serious crime increased under all heads except dakaiti; the increase was most marked in cases of burglary and theft in the districts of Lakhimpur and Sibsagar and of rioting in Sylhet. The absence of a record-of-rights is responsible for most of the riots in Crime.

PROTECTION.

Sylhet, and it is proposed in the near future to undertake the preparation of such a record in a selected area and, if it prove successful, to continue the work over the whole districts. Bad characters among the increasing number of immigrants from up country and among the tea-garden population are held responsible for the increase in crime against property in the Assam Valley. A more effective use is required of the preventive sections 109 and 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

The increase in crime was accompanied by an increase in the number of successful prosecutions. Of all cognisable cases decided, 64·4 per cent. against 61·3 per cent. in the previous year ended in conviction, while in police cases alone the percentage was 79·1. The increase was most pronounced in sessions cases, where the percentage of convictions rose from 74·8 to 81·3.

An increase in the number of false cases was accompanied by more numerous prosecutions and convictions under sections 182 and 211, Indian Penal Code, and the number of cases in which compensation was awarded under section 250, Criminal Procedure Code, was also greater.

General.

67. The Criminal Investigation Department consisted of an altogether inadequate staff and the necessity of strengthening it has been recognized and additional appointments have been sanctioned since the close of the year under report. A Finger Print Bureau was established in Shillong on the reconstitution of the province.

SECTION 4.—Criminal Justice.

PLAINS DISTRICTS.

Judicial staff.

68. The Judicial staff employed on criminal work consisted of two Sessions Judges, one Additional Sessions Judge, eight District Magistrates, seventy stipendiary Magistrates and twenty-seven Honorary Magistrates. Six additional subordinate stipendiary Magistrates were appointed during the year.

Offences reported.

69. During the year 39,174 offences were reported as compared with 35,983 in the previous year. Of the total, 13,062 were dismissed under section 203, Criminal Procedure Code, and 989 otherwise struck off as false, leaving 22,916 cases to be dealt with by the courts, an increase of 3,103 over the number in 1911.

Including cases pending at the end of the previous year, 24,837 cases were accepted as true and 17,422 were brought to trial, an increase of 3,578 and of 2,462, respectively.

Original Jurisdiction. Magistrate's court.

70. In Magistrates' courts 17,087 cases were finally disposed of, the proportion of cases tried summarily being 28·3 per cent. The number of persons accused in the cases decided was 28,545, of whom 12,735 or 44·6 per cent. were convicted. The total number of witnesses examined was 56,281 or 5,497 more than in the previous year. Of this number, 80·5 per cent. were discharged on the first day, while the number detained for more than three days was 507.

Bonds for keeping the peace were taken from 1,203 persons, and 219 persons were required to furnish security for good behaviour, 203 of whom were sentenced to imprisonment in default. In 99 cases complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons against whom they were found to have brought frivolous or vexatious accusations.

Courts of Session.

71. The number of cases before the Courts of Session was 237, of which 203 were decided. In the cases decided, 486 persons were tried and 346 were convicted and 132 discharged or acquitted, while in 8 cases a reference was made to the High Court.

There were 154 persons tried by jury, and the Judge agreed with the verdict with regard to 136 persons and disapproved of it with regard to 18. In no case was a reference made to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Two hundred and forty-five persons were tried with the aid of assessors. The Judge concurred with both assessors in 162 instances, concurred with one assessor in 48, and disagreed with both in 35. Sentences of death were passed in eight cases on eight persons, and were referred to the High Court for confirmation with the result that the sentences were confirmed in seven cases, while one was pending at the close of the year. Fifteen persons were sentenced in the Sessions Court to transportation for life, and one person to transportation for a term of years. Three hundred and twenty-four persons were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, two to simple imprisonment and twenty to fines. The average duration of sessions trials was 41·8 days, as against 42 in 1911. The number of witnesses examined before the Courts of Session was 1,850

against 1,534 in the previous year; of these, 424 were detained for more than three days. The proportion of witnesses discharged after the third day to the total number examined was 22·9 against 25·2 in the previous year.

Appellate jurisdiction, The High Court.

72. There were in all 105 appeals for disposal by the High Court and 99 were decided. The judgments of the lower courts were upheld in 82, reversed in 7 and modified in 8 cases, while one case was remanded for retrial. In one case, which was unsuccessful, the appeal was preferred by the Local Government against an acquittal.

Courts of Session.

73. There were 759 appeals before the Courts of Session and 716 were decided, in which 1,320 persons were concerned. The original sentences were confirmed in the cases of 68·4 per cent. of the appellants, modified in 15·5 per cent. and reversed in 14·8 per cent. A new trial was ordered in the case of 15 persons.

District Magistrates' Courts.

74. The appeals of 492 persons were disposed of in the courts of District Magistrates. Of these, 66·4 per cent. were altogether unsuccessful, 21·5 per cent. obtained a reversal and 9·1 per cent. a modification of their sentences. In the case of 10 persons a new trial was ordered and in the cases of 4 persons the proceedings were quashed.

Revision.

75. There were 164 applications for the revision of orders passed by lower courts decided by the High Court, 343 decided by the Courts of Session and 244 by District Magistrates.

Receipts and charges.

76. The charges incurred in the Criminal Courts amounted to Rs. 3,42 879 and the receipts to Rs. 1,96,104, representing increases of Rs. 60,510 and Rs. 11,393, respectively, over the previous year's figures.

HILL DISTRICTS AND FRONTIER TRACTS.

77. There were in all 1,792 cases for disposal in the hill districts and frontier tracts, of which 1,590 were found to be true and 1,419 were brought to trial. In the cases decided, 2,022 persons were accused, and of these 1,696 were convicted and 326 acquitted or discharged. There were in all 71 appeals or applications for revision, 44 of which were totally unsuccessful, while the lower courts' decisions were modified in 11 and reversed in 4 cases and in 6 cases the proceedings were quashed.

SECTION B.—Jails.

[*See* Report on the Jail Administration in the province of Assam for the year 1912; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

General.

78. There was no change in the number of jails and sub-jails. The year opened with 1,582 prisoners of all classes in confinement. The number of admissions and discharges were respectively 9,651 and 9,335 against 8,594 and 8,948, in the preceding year, and the number in confinement at the close of the year exceeded that at the commencement by 316. Of the total number of convicts admitted, 38·89 per cent. were Muhammadans, 53·33 per cent. Hindus and Sikhs, 16 per cent. Buddhists and Jains and ·43 per cent. Christians.

Juvenile, female and literate offenders.

79. Eighteen juvenile offenders (16 boys and 2 girls) and 131 women were imprisoned during the year. The percentage of literate convicts was 5·09.

Under-trial prisoners.

80. The daily average of under-trial prisoners was 197·25 and the average period of detention in Magistrates' cases 13·91 days.

Civil prisoners.

81. Seventy-seven civil prisoners were received during the year against 85 in 1911.

There were 8 escapes in 1912, 4 from inside and 4 from outside the jails. The large increase in the number of escapes emphasises the insecure condition of some of the jails and especially of the sub-jails. Brick walls are being substituted as rapidly as funds permit for the bamboo palisades which form the enclosures at most of the sub-jails. The total number of offences committed by convicts was 2,242 or 341 more than in the previous year. Of this number, 1,832 were dealt with by minor and 395 by major punishments.

Health.

82. There was a marked improvement in the health of prisoners compared with the previous year. The daily average number of sick in hospital was 68·80 against 86·19 in 1911 and the total number of deaths decreased from 108 to 66. This improvement is attributed to the less frequent occurrence of overcrowding and to the increased attention paid by Superintendents to matters affecting health.

PROTECTION.

Employment.

83. An average of 635·05 prisoners or 39·77 per cent. were employed on manufactures and 74·39 or 4·66 per cent. on remunerative extramural work. The cash earnings of the year amounted to Rs. 30,109 against Rs. 39,583 in 1911. The main reason for this reduction in the earnings was the lack of demand for the products of the more remunerative forms of labour and for extramural work under private persons.

Finance.

84. The total expenditure on guarding and maintaining the prisoners rose from Rs. 1,48,753 to Rs. 1,78,053 and the nett cost of the jails from Rs. 1,09,170 to Rs. 1,47,947. The cost per head of average strength was Rs. 80-15-0 or Rs. 26 more than in the previous year. The low cash receipts in the manufacturing department and the increased expenditure on maintenance were responsible for this increase.

SECTION 6.—Civil Justice.

PLAINS DISTRICTS.

Judicial staff.

85. The Civil Judicial staff of the province consisted of two District Judges, one Additional District Judge, nine Subordinate Judges and twenty-nine Munsifs. Of these, seven Subordinate Judges and nineteen Munsifs were executive officers vested with judicial powers under section 25 of the Bengal, Agra, and Assam Civil Courts Act, 1887.

Original jurisdiction.

86. The number of original suits instituted was 38,730, showing an increase of 4,051 over the previous year's figures. There were 26,945 suits for money or moveables, 8,049 rent suits and 3,736 title and other suits. The increase in institutions occurred in the district of Sylhet and in the Assam Valley.

Disposal of suits.

87. The total number of suits for disposal was 48,135. Of these, 38,320 were disposed of, or 3,209 more than in the previous year. Owing to the increase in institutions, the number of cases pending at the close of the year rose from 8,729 to 9,815. The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif was higher than in the two previous years.

Duration of suits.

88. There was a considerable improvement in the average duration of contested cases under the ordinary procedure before all the courts, but there was an increase in the duration of contested cases under the Small Cause Court Procedure before Subordinate Judges and of uncontested cases generally.

Execution proceedings.

89. There were 24,521 applications for proceedings in execution of decrees, of which 19,521 were disposed of and 688 transferred to other courts. In 13,119 cases or 67·2 per cent., the proceedings were returned as unsuccessful, while full satisfaction was obtained in 2,727 and partial satisfaction in 3,675 cases, the total amount realized being Rs. 4,47,562.

The coercive measures employed were imprisonment of judgment-debtors in 123 cases, arrests followed by release in 155 cases, 1,470 sales of property, moveable or immoveable, and 640 attachments of property followed by its release. Possession of immoveable property was given in 1,785 cases.

Miscellaneous cases.

90. Of cases of a judicial nature other than suits and execution proceedings, 3,425 were instituted during the year, 3,415 disposed of, of which 998 were contested, and 707 left pending.

The number of non-judicial miscellaneous cases instituted and disposed of during the year was 400 and 427, respectively. They consisted almost entirely of applications for deposit of rent.

Appellate jurisdiction. The High Court.

91. Including cases pending at the close of the previous year, there were 292 appeals before the High Court, of which 109 were decided. The decree of the lower court was reversed in 4 cases and modified in 6 cases, while 17 cases were remanded to the lower court. In the remainder the appeals were summarily rejected or the decrees of the lower courts confirmed.

Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

92. There were in all 1,627 appeals for disposal with civil appellate courts in Assam and 1,087 were disposed of. Seventy-one were summarily rejected and those decided after hearing, the decisions of the lower courts were affirmed in 771 cases or 75·8 per cent., modified in 64 or 6·2 per cent. and reversed in 154 or 15·1 per cent., the remainder being remanded to the lower courts. The results were more favourable to the lower courts than in the previous year.

Receipts and charges.

93. Receipts from Civil Courts rose from Rs. 5,76,040 in 1911 to Rs. 6,27,393 in 1912 and expenditure from Rs. 2,74,821 to Rs. 2,86,408, yielding an increase of Rs. 39,766 in the surplus.

HILL DISTRICTS AND FRONTIER TRACTS.

Civil justice in the Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts.

94. The number of civil suits instituted in the hill districts was 1,411 and their total value Rs. 1,33,745. In all there were 1,594 suits for disposal, of which 1,347 were decided. There were 41 appeals, of which 35 were decided, two being summarily dismissed, while the decisions of the lower courts were confirmed in 20, modified in 11 and reversed in 2 cases. Of 10 miscellaneous appeals, 5 were rejected, while in the remainder the orders were modified.

SECTION 7.—Registration.

[*See* Statistical Returns of the Registration Department in Assam for the year 1912; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

Registration offices.

95. The number of offices at work in 1912 was 37 as in the previous year. A Joint Sub-Registry office was opened at Palonghat in the district of Cachar, as an experimental measure, in March 1913.

Administration.

96. A separate provincial cadre of Sub-Registrars was formed, with the sanction of the Government of India, after the separation of Assam from Eastern Bengal. Incremental pay rising from Rs. 175 to Rs. 250 per mensem was attached to the two posts of Special Sub-Registrar.

Documents registered.

97. The total number of documents registered in the province rose from 71,192 to 74,239, the increase being due to normal expansion of business.

Receipts and expenditure.

98. Receipts rose from Rs. 89,199 to Rs. 91,015, while the expenditure decreased from Rs. 56,738 to Rs. 55,943.

Working of the Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act.

99. The number of ceremonies registered under the Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act during the year decreased by 161. The decrease was most marked in Sylhet and was due to the closure for a considerable portion of the year of the important office of Balaganj.

Working of the Indian Companies Act.

100. Fifty-six companies limited by shares and registered under Act VI of 1882 were at work during the year with an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 12,84,084 as compared with 49 companies with an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 9,85,181 at the close of the previous year. There was a single company limited by guarantee. Seven new companies with an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 57,172 were registered during the year. Five of these were "trading companies," one belonged to the "mills and presses" class, and one to that of "tea and other planting companies."

SECTION 8.—Municipal Administration.

[*See* Resolution reviewing the Reports on the Working of Municipalities in Assam during the year 1912-1913; Statistics of British India, Part VIII.]

101. During the year Act III (B.C.) of 1884 was introduced in the Silchar Municipality, in replacement of Act V(B.C.) of 1876 and the boundaries of the Dibrugarh Municipality were revised; Part X of the Bengal Municipal Act, III of 1884, was extended to the Sylhet Municipality, and Parts VII and IX of the Act to the Silchar Municipality. Rules framed by the Commissioners of the Silchar Municipality under the Hackney Carriage Act, XIV of 1879, and by-laws framed by the Shillong, Sylhet, Silchar, Goalpara, Dhubri and Jorhat Municipalities were confirmed. Since the close of the year the Habiganj Union has been converted into a Municipality under Act III (B.C.) of 1884, and new Municipalities have been established at Karimganj and Sunamganj. Proposals for establishing some form of Municipal Government in certain other towns of Assam and for the extension of Municipal Government in a modified form to large bazars in the interior are under consideration. The number of meetings held by Municipalities rose from 148 to 167, and the average percentage of attendance from 63·99 to 66·37.

Taxation.

102. General or partial revisions of assessments were carried out in four Municipalities, but the increase in taxation thus obtained was nowhere very marked. The average incidence of taxation per head of population rose from Rs. 1-8-5 in 1911-12 to Rs. 1-10-0.

Income.

103. Government contributions fell from Rs. 2,65,063 to Rs. 2,38,797, whilst the income from local sources rose from Rs. 2,61,052 to Rs. 2,74,705. The net result was a reduction of income by Rs. 8,732.

Expenditure.

104. The total expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 4,99,854 against Rs. 4,12,757 in the year 1911-12.

PROTECTION.

Water-supply.

105. Capital and maintenance charges on account of water-supply rose from Rs. 81,881 and Rs. 21,762 to Rs. 1,17,741 and Rs. 28,245, respectively. The capital charges were almost entirely in respect of the water-supply scheme of the Jorhat municipality, funds for which were provided by the Local Government last year.

Conservancy and drainage.

106. The expenditure on conservancy rose from Rs. 1,07,195 to Rs. 1,14,515. The conservancy arrangements in most towns are still defective notably in Sylhet and Dibrugarh, where schemes for improvement are under preparation. The capital outlay on drainage, owing to the construction of tiled drains in Shillong, rose from Rs. 453 to Rs. 5,540, while the expenditure of establishment, repairs, etc., fell off slightly being Rs. 8,472 against Rs. 8,838 in the previous year.

Financial position.

107. The aggregate closing balances amounted to Rs. 2,18,439 or Rs. 28,206 in excess of those of the previous year, and the actual balances, excluding the value of uncashed cheques, rose from Rs. 1,88,154 to Rs. 2,15,809. At the close of the year three municipalities had outstanding loans to meet, but the liabilities were not heavy, and on the whole the financial position of the municipalities during the year was good.

Audit.

108. No special defects in the accounts of municipalities were brought to notice by the Examiner of Local Accounts during the year, but an embezzlement in the Dhubri Municipal office came to light immediately after its close.

General.

109. The Chief Commissioner takes the greatest personal interest in the schemes of water-supply for municipalities which are under consideration. The recent appointment of a Sanitary Engineer will, it is expected, result in the schemes being expedited and it is hoped that good progress will now be made.

SECTION 9.—Local Boards.

[*See* Resolution on the working of Local Boards in Assam during 1912-1913; Statistics of British India, Part VIII.]

General.

110. No alteration took place as regards either the number or constitution of the nineteen Local Boards in the province; but the number of successful meetings and the average percentage of attendance thereat considerably increased during the year under report. A draft Local Self-Government Bill has been submitted to the Government of India, and it is hoped that it will be possible to introduce it in the Provincial Legislative Council in the near future. The question of improving the prospects of the clerical staff of the Boards is under consideration, and the Chief Commissioner has made enquiries as to the competency of the existing Public Works staff.

Finance.

111. The aggregate opening balance of the Boards was Rs. 4,16,206; their income amounted to Rs. 24,43,313 and their expenditure to Rs. 22,50,132, the balance at the close of the year being Rs. 6,09,387. There was an expansion by Rs. 7,18,355 in the total ordinary income of the year owing mainly to the increased grants made during the year from Provincial revenues. The Boards received their share of the special grants for the advancement of education which were made by the Imperial Government to mark the occasion of the Coronation of Their Majesties at Delhi, and the Chief Commissioner was also able to place large funds at their disposal for the improvement of communications and water-supply. Government grants consequently formed more than 54 per cent. of the total income of the Boards. The expansion of income from other sources was not considerable.

The work of the year (a) Education.

112. The expenditure on education kept pace with the increase in the total incomes of the Boards, its percentage on the total income being 24·80 as compared with 24·58 in the previous year. Excluding the figures for the Dhubri Local Board, which are not available, the record of the Board's office having been destroyed by fire, contributions from Government rose from Rs. 1,41,758 to Rs. 2,61,858, an increase of over 85 per cent. The Boards all fully realised their responsibilities in this direction.

(b) Medical.

113. The number of dispensaries maintained or aided by Boards was 122, that is to say, one more than in the previous year. The distribution of medicines at markets was undertaken by some of the Boards and leaflets containing instructions for the prevention and treatment of cholera and malaria were distributed. The majority of the Boards spend as large a proportion of their incomes as they can afford on medical relief, and find it impossible to supply new dispensaries in localities where they are urgently required. In cases where Boards have been unable to find funds for necessary work, assistance has been given by the Local Administration.

(c) Sanitary improvement, water-supply and drainage.

114. A most interesting feature of the year's work was an experiment made in the direction of the sanitary improvement of rural areas by allotting small sums to selected villages from a grant of Rs. 4,000 made by the Administration, in the hope of interesting the villagers themselves in such improvements and of preparing the

ground for the operation of the Local Self-Government Act which is now under consideration and which contemplates a gradual extension of village government. The experiment met with a considerable measure of success and is being repeated on a larger scale during the current year.

The total expenditure of the Boards other than Dhubri on sanitary improvements, water-supply and drainage was Rs. 1,16,088, as compared with Rs. 1,39,865 for all the Boards during the previous year. The largest expenditure on water-supply was incurred by the Gauhati and Barpeta Boards which have now almost completed programmes of water-supply undertaken with assistance from the Sanitary Board, involving a cost of Rs. 1,60,000 and Rs. 65,167 respectively. A conference was held by the Chief Commissioner after the close of the year to discuss the questions of rural water-supply and sanitation and on the information thus obtained he has required every Board to prepare a five years' programme of works for the provision of water-supply in rural areas and has made an allotment of Rs. 10,000 to each Board during the current year in order that work may be commenced immediately.

(a) Public Works.

115. As the result of a conference held in May 1912, a grant of 15 lakhs was sanctioned by the Administration to be spent by Local Boards during a term of three years on the improvement of communications. Of this sum Rs. 5,73,550 was actually placed at the disposal of the Boards for expenditure during the year under report. A large number of the more important works financed from these grants are being executed through the agency of the Public Works Department, but the work under execution by the Boards' own agency is by no means small. As a result of a second conference held after the close of the year, an additional sum of 10 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner for expenditure by Boards on roads during the current and the following year.

A sum of Rs. 13,78,651 was allotted in the budget of the various Boards for Public Works, of which Rs. 12,35,539 was actually spent. The corresponding figures for 1911-12 (which however include the figures for Dhubri) were Rs. 9,04,592 and Rs. 8,34,584 respectively. The average lapse which fell from 16·3 to 7·4 per cent. in the previous year rose again to 10·89 per cent. The heavy lapses that occurred in some of the Boards are due in part to the largely increased programmes with which they had to deal; but early rain and scarcity of labour are reported to have hampered all Boards in the Surma Valley.

(c) Veterinary.

116. The Veterinary charges of the Boards other than Dhubri fell from Rs. 21,908 to Rs. 20,144, the decrease occurring mainly in the Surma Valley. Two Veterinary Assistants were employed by the Dhubri and Jorhat Boards and one by each of the others. The Chief Commissioner has laid it down that each Local Board should entertain two Veterinary Assistants, and has promised funds, where required in order to make this possible; but the dearth of qualified candidates has so far rendered it impossible for the majority of the Boards to engage a second officer.

SECTION 10.—Military (Volunteering).

MILITARY (VOLUNTEERS).

117. The undermentioned Volunteer Corps were in existence during 1912-13:—

(1) Surma Valley Light Horse.
(2) Assam Valley Light Horse.

The total number of volunteers was on the 1st April 1913—

Officers ... 86
Rank and file ... 864

This number was made up as follows:—

Corps.	Officers (includes Staff and Supernumerary Officers).	Rank and file.	Reservists.	
			Officers.	Rank and file.
Surma Valley Light Horse	37	301	...	16
Assam Valley Light Horse	43	462	6	85
Total	80	763	6	101

SECTION 11.—Marine.

Nil.

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

SECTION 1.—Agriculture and Horticulture.

[*See* Report of the Agricultural Department, Assam, for the year ending 30th June 1913.]

Staff of the Department.

118. The staff of the Provincial Agricultural Department is beginning to take shape. The appointment of an agricultural chemist has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State and Mr. A. A. Meggitt, B. sc., joined the post in January 1914. An agricultural supervisor and two probationary district agricultural officers were appointed from 1st June 1913.

Agricultural Scholarship.

119. For the scientific training of students in agriculture, this province is dependent upon the courtesy of the Government of Bihar and Orissa in admitting students from Assam to the Sabour Agricultural College. The grant of one scholarship of Rs. 20 a month tenable at that college for three years has been sanctioned. During the year under report two successive candidates for the scholarship left the college owing to a distaste for the manual labour which is inseparable from a practical education in agriculture.

Experiments and research.

120. Interesting and valuable results were obtained with special reference to sugarcane, from the experiments in soil improvement, planting and crop rotation at the Jorhat Agricultural Station.

The new Experimental Fruit Farm at Shillong has made a most promising start under the able management of Mr. C. H. Holder.

Demonstrations.

121. In connection with rice cultivation, manurial demonstrations with bone meal and flour phosphate were commenced in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Sibsagar, Sylhet and Kamrup, at 10 centres in each district. In every case demonstrations are located on actual cultivators' holdings.

The important work of popularising wet rice cultivation as a substitute for *jhuming* continues to make slow but steady progress in the Lushai and Naga Hills. In the Khasi and Jaintia Hills about half an acre of land was laid out in terraces with a view to encouraging the adoption of this method of cultivation instead of *jhuming*.

As regards sugarcane the superiority of B 376 from the Jorhat Farm over the local varieties, Magh and Tili, was demonstrated on cultivators' holdings in 12 centres in Sibsagar.

In order to popularise the use of the iron roller crushing mill in the place of the old wooden mill six iron mills were sent out in charge of demonstrators. Arrangements were made in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills district to send out twelve expert sprayers to spray the cultivators' crops with Bordeaux mixture, as a preventive of the potato disease.

Demonstrations in fruit culture are being carried on in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, the Lushai Hills and the Naga Hills and in the gardens of honorary correspondents in the plains.

ericulture

122. Sericultural operations, which have been transferred to the Roman Catholic Mission, were undertaken at the abandoned fruit experimental station at Umlyngka near Shillong. Rai Bhupal Chandra Basu Bahadur was placed in last June on special duty to enquire into the present condition of the silk industry in Assam with a view to the introduction of improved methods of rearing, reeling and disposal of the finished article.

The breeding of Patna bulls and the experiment of crossing Khasi ewes with Dumba rams were continued at Upper Shillong. Twenty-two head of cattle, including twelve breeding bulls and six cross-bred rams, were sold during the year. Twelve Dumba ewes were obtained for the Shillong Farm and two Baluchi goats were imported for use at Haflong for stud purposes. The poultry breeding at Aijal continued under the direction of the Superintendent, Lushai Hills.

Shows.

123. A flower show was held at Shillong in May 1913 under the management of a local committee. The Agricultural Show for the Khasi Hills was held on the 1st September 1913 after the close of the year, and was a great success.

SECTION 2.—Co-operative Societies.

[*See* Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Assam for the year ending the 31st March 1913; Statistics of British India, Part II.]

General progress.

124. The co-operative year now ends with March instead of June. During the nine months ending with the 31st March 1913, the number of societies rose from 142 to 188, the number of members from 9,758 to 10,945, and the working capital from Rs. 4,91,411 to Rs. 5,56,098. The classification of societies into central agricultural and non-agricultural was adopted during the year. Four central banking unions were formed in the subdivisions of Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, Jorhat and Golaghat, and unions for control and supervision of small groups of agricultural societies were established in Kamrup and Silchar. The Silchar Town Bank has been classified as a central society, as its dealings are chiefly with agricultural societies. The number of agricultural societies at the end of the year rose from 124 to 164. The number of non-agricultural societies remained unchanged, except by the transfer of the Silchar Town Bank to the head "Central Societies."

Central Banks.

125. The paid-up share capital of the Pioneer Central Bank at Shillong which is Rs. 12,000 remains unchanged. Its capital from the sale of 5 years' 6½ per cent. debentures was Rs. 67,050, as against Rs. 63,150 in the previous year. The profit of the Bank on the year's working was Rs. 2,870-0-8. This Bank issues loans to societies only. The amount issued in loans during the year came to Rs. 20,600 as against Rs. 25,100 in the preceding year. The paid-up share capital of the Silchar Central Bank is Rs. 8,868 against Rs. 4,668 in the previous year, while the capital raised from deposits of members and non-members has risen from Rs. 35,079 to Rs. 43,229. This Bank issues loans to members as well as to societies. It issued Rs. 8,900 to agricultural societies, and 66 loans for Rs. 10,930 to its members. The Bank made a profit of Rs. 1,554.

Agricultural Societies.

126. The capital of agricultural societies rose from Rs. 2,05,594 to Rs. 2,33,618. The total sum issued in loans was Rs. 79,590. The rate of interest in most cases was Rs. 12½ per cent. per annum, though some societies in the Surma Valley charge at the rate of 18¾ per cent. The entire profits of these societies amounting to Rs. 8,360-5-7 have been carried to the reserve fund. Four societies only failed to work at a profit.

Non-Agricultural Societies.

127. The total capital of non-agricultural societies, inclusive of reserve funds, shows a decrease from Rs. 1,92,563 to Rs. 1,81,345. The decrease is due to the removal of the Silchar Town Bank to the class of Central Banks. The total sum issued in loans was Rs. 69,843. All these societies worked at a profit, the total net profits amounting to Rs. 8,760-1-5.

Reserve funds.

128. The reserve fund of the Central Banks and unions has increased from Rs. 1,430 to Rs. 4,108-15-2. Agricultural societies show a satisfactory increase in reserve funds from Rs. 22,523-15-1 to Rs. 32,689-0-8 and non-agricultural societies from Rs. 8,453 to Rs. 10,404-3-5.

The most important features of the year were the formation of unions, and the subdivision of the societies in the Assam Valley which were constituted on a *mauza* basis, into village societies. Since the close of the year the principle has been accepted that District and Subdivisional Officers should generally be on the management of Central Banks operating in their charges.

SECTION 3.—Weather and Crops.

[*See* Report on Season and crop of Assam for the year ending 31st March 1913; Agricultural Statistics of British India, Volume I, Appendix A, Area and Yield of certain principal crops in India.]

General character of the weather.

129. The rainfall during the year was heavier than in the preceding year, but was not evenly distributed. The spring rains were above the normal everywhere except in the extreme north-east of the Brahmaputra Valley, where they were in defect. The rainfall from June to September was again above the normal in the Brahmaputra Valley but was defective in the rest of the province. The autumn rains were also well in excess of the normal, despite a scanty fall in parts of the lower and central Valley of the Brahmaputra. The winter rainfall exceeded the normal in most districts. Floods caused some damage to the sugarcane crop in Goalpara, Kamrup and Sibsagar, and excessive rain in the beginning interfered with the cultivation and growth of jute. The weather on the whole was favourable to rice and to the oil seed crops, but not for cotton.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Area under cultivation.

130. The year was generally favourable for cultivation and the reported "net cropped area" increased by 113,635 acres. The increase was shared by all the plains districts of the Province except Kamrup, where there was a decrease of 11,635 acres. The expansion in cropping was accompanied by a corresponding contraction in the area under "current fallow" in all the plains districts except Nowgong and Lakhimpur.

The favourable weather conditions greatly benefited the growth of winter rice and bumper harvests were reaped in Cachar and Sylhet.

The outturn per acre of the *boro* (spring) rice and winter rice crops wa estimated at 100 and 111 per cent. respectively of the normal. The outturn of *aus* rice was 93 per cent. of the normal as against 91 per cent. estimated last year. On the basis of these figures the total outturn of rice in the province was 1,946,395 tons against 1,894,390 tons in the preceding year. Rape seed was estimated to have yielded 88 per cent. only of the normal. The deficiency was accounted for by the drought in December and January which retarded the growth of the crop to a considerable extent. The outturn of sugarcane was estimated to be 102 per cent. of the normal against 100 per cent. in the preceding year. The outturn was estimated to be above the normal in Darrang and Sibsagar and a normal crop was estimated in Cachar, Sylhet and Lakhimpur; in the remaining districts the estimate was from 60 to 95 per cent. The District Officers estimated the average outturn of jute at 79 per cent. against 88 per cent. in the preceding year. The total outturn thus amounts to 226,797 bales against 239,600 bales reported last year or a decrease of 5·4 per cent. This result is due to the very unfavourable weather at the beginning of the season in spite of an increase in area.

Prices.

131. The wholesale price of rice was higher than in 1911-12 except in Sylhet At the close of the year the price per maund was Rs. 4·156 or 26 per cent. higher than at the corresponding time of the previous year. Although a bumper crop was reaped, a steady market was maintained in consequence of a large demand for rice outside the province, and the large exports which took place chiefly from the Surma Valley both by the Assam-Bengal Railway and by river, tended to keep up the price above its ordinary level. The price of pulse (*matikalai*) was higher and that of mustard lower than in the preceding year. The price of *gur* remained nearly the same as last year.

SECTION 4.—Forests.

[*See* Progress Report of Forest Administration in the Province of Assam for 1912-1913 and Statistics of British India, Part IV(*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Area of reserved forests.

132. The total area of reserved forests at the close of the year was 4,381 square miles. There was a net increase of 60 square miles, the most important new reservations being the addition of about 26 square miles to the Nongkhyllem reserve in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and the reservation of 45 square miles in North Lakhimpur. The area of unclassed State forests was reduced by 113 square miles. Proposals for extensive reservations in Sylhet and in other parts of the province are under consideration, but the large and scattered area of unclassed State forests and the extent to which they are honeycombed with cultivation render the task of examining them, with a view to the selection of the portions which are worth reserving, a laborious one.

Sixteen areas comprising 325 square miles were under settlement during the year, and 7 areas including 71 square miles were finally settled.

Working plans.

133. No new working plans were prepared or sanctioned during the year. Apart from the difficulty of framing working plans without reliable maps, the time and attention of the staff are at present more urgently required for the examination of unclassed State forests, with a view to reserving such portions as contain valuable timber, before it is too late. The prescriptions of the existing working plans were however followed as far as possible. In some cases fellings were deferred owing to the lack of demand due to inadequate means of export of timber.

Communications and buildings.

134. The total expenditure incurred during the year on communications and buildings amounted to Rs. 1,34,297 against Rs. 1,10,559 in the preceding year. A sum of Rs. 11,866 was expended on the extension of the Kachugaon tramway and on the construction of a feeder line. The total expenditure incurred up to date on the tramway which now extends to 22 miles amounted to Rs. 1,18,264. The line yielded a return of 5½ per cent. on the outlay. About 188 miles of new roads and inspection paths were opened during the year at a total cost of Rs. 34,889, and the construction of the Kulsi river *bund* in Kamrup for the protection of the teak and rubber plantations in the vicinity was completed at a total cost of Rs. 3,357. A sum of Rs. 46,663 was expended on new buildings.

135. There was a decrease in the number of forest offences from 698 to 586. The majority of cases were for illicit fellings and removal of forest produce. One hundred and sixty-nine cases were brought into court, of which 104 ended in conviction. An offender was fined Rs. 400 for illicit collection of rubber and a Forest Guard was sentenced to 5 months' imprisonment for cheating and counterfeiting a sale hammer mark. Forest offences and protection.

The area specially protected from fire was 1,099 square miles. The season was favourable and the failures were very few. In the Western Circle 12 fires occurred—10 in forests specially protected and 2 in forests under "partial" protection. The latter two occurred in Goalpara and caused damage to 15,224 acres.

In the past many Nepali professional graziers have wandered into the Assam Valley districts, and recently the raising of the rate of grazing fees in Bengal has led to a large influx of graziers from the adjoining Bengal districts into Goalpara. These graziers in many places constitute a nuisance and it has been decided to reserve special grazing grounds for them and to discourage their presence elsewhere by differential grazing fees. The great demand for thatch and *simul* timber in Upper Assam and the possibility of utilising coarse grasses for the manufacture of paper pulp necessitate the early adoption of measures for restricting the range of the professional graziers' herds.

136. Owing to an outbreak of small-pox and to the early arrival of the monsoon, the full number of trees allotted in the Charduar and Kulsi plantations could not be tapped. Altogether 7,047 trees were tapped covering an area of 450½ acres and 14,488 lbs. of rubber collected at a total cost of Rs. 7,170. In both plantations the outturn per acre showed an improvement over that of the preceding year while the price only fell by two annas per pound, which considering the condition of the rubber market was satisfactory. Rubber.

The experiment in training aerial roots in the Charduar plantation was continued with fair success, and similar experiments are being made in the Kulsi plantation. The planting out of rubber trees through the agency of the chiefs and villagers in the Lushai Hills continued, but the system of giving out seedlings to ordinary Lushai chiefs has been stopped, as most of them took very little care of the plants. All the seedlings are now given to selected persons in suitable localities.

137. *Sâl* seeded abundantly in the Garo Hills, well generally in Kamrup, Darrang and Nowgong, but poorly in Goalpara and the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. The natural reproduction of other species was generally satisfactory. Sylviculture.

In Goalpara 2 plots were fired with a view to ascertain whether burning would assist the growth of *sâl* seedlings in their struggle with those of other species, but the results were only moderately satisfactory. Artificial measures for reproduction will perhaps have to be adopted to re-establish *sâl*.

In the Lakhimpur *simul* nursery 25,000 seedlings were grown and a sufficient quantity of seed sown to produce 20 to 30 thousand plants. Action has also been taken to open nurseries in Cachar for planting out first class and tea box timbers.

138. With a view to encourage the tea box industry the royalty on tea box timbers was remitted with the result that the outturn of tea boxes increased. The working of the concession was however found to be attended by serious practical difficulties and it has been restricted to two years. Experimental plant for preserving timber is being erected and it seems possible that means may be found of utilizing the large stocks of timber at present considered unfit for general purposes. Some timber has been collected in Cachar and is being seasoned with a view to its conversion into sleepers and experimental treatment with preservatives. General.

A tentative list was prepared of the more valuable species of timber suitable for furniture and cabinet work, which are at present not utilized save for agricultural purposes. Specimens of some of them are being collected and seasoned in the Goalpara forest division for shipment to Europe.

139. Two villages were closed, as the villagers left them to work as coolies in tea gardens. One village was cleared, but no new village established during the year. Forest villages.

140. Information under this head is included in Chapter V—"Revenue and Finance." Financial results.

The gross revenue rose from Rs. 11,17,569 to Rs. 11,33,228 while the expenditure fell from Rs. 8,32,158 to Rs. 8,15,671. All the forest divisions worked at a profit except the Lakhimpur, Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Lushai Hills divisions. There was an increase of Rs. 66,068 in the revenue derived from the sale of timber removed by purchasers.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

SECTION 5.—Manufacture and Mines.

Tea.

141. The total number of tea gardens in the province increased from 738 to 746 during the year 1912 and the total area under tea rose from 354,716 to 361,671 acres, the new extensions being 10,269 acres and the area abandoned 3,314 acres. The total area plucked was 94 per cent. of the area under tea. The permanent labour force increased by 7,983 persons and temporary labourers by 8,041. Conditions were very favourable for the growth of tea except in Cachar, where the weather was unfavourable at the beginning of the season and mosquito blight and late floods hampered the outturn afterwards.

Outturn.

142. The year's crop amounted to 198,798,283 lbs. of manufactured tea, of which 197,820,755 lbs. was black and 977,528 lbs green. The latter, as in previous years, was restricted to the Surma Valley. The increase by 11 per cent. of the total production of the year as compared with that of the preceding year was due to exceptionally favourable weather conditions.

Tea seed.

143. There was a keen demand for tea seed and good prices were obtained. During the year 15,341 maunds of tea seed were exported from Assam, principally to Calcutta. One Planter in Darrang is reported to have exported 100 maunds of seed to Java.

Prices.

144. Tea grown in the Brahmaputra and Surma Valleys realized slightly lower prices both in Calcutta and London than in the year preceding.

Condition of the Industry.

145. On the whole, the year 1912 was one of prosperity. The facts that the area planted has increased and that more land is being taken up are plain indications that the industry is prospering.

146. Thirteen prospecting licenses, as detailed below, were granted during the year ending the 30th June 1913 :—

In the Khasi and Jaintia Hills—
- 2 for corundum;
- 1 for mineral oil;
- 2 for gold, tin and certain other allied minerals;
- 1 for red ochre, yellow ochre, cinnabar, barytes and gypsum ; and
- 1 for mercury.

In Nowgong—
- 1 for coal.

In Lakhimpur—
- 1 for coal, oil and other metals.

In Sylhet—
- 2 for oil.

In Cachar—
- 2 for oil.

Only one mining lease was issued for coal in the Naga Hills district.

The six coal mines worked in the Lakhimpur district produced 273,387 tons of coal during 1912-13 and the royalty realised thereon amounted to Rs. 43,414. Five hundred and forty-five tons of coal were mined in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. The Digboi oil wells in Lakhimpur produced 4,388,531 gallons of mineral oil and Rs. 20,790 was levied as royalty.

The output of limestone during the year 1912 was 79,486 tons, practically the whole of which was quarried in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills district. Seventy tons of corundum were extracted from these Hills.

SECTION 6.—Factories.

REPORT.

147. There were 16 factories working at the close of the year 1912. They were classified as follows :—

Printing Presses	2
Railway workshops	3
Colliery ,, ...	1
Petroleum refineries	1
Potteries	1
Sawmills	8
	16

The average daily number of operatives employed was 2,901, including 164 children (against 2,971 including 180 children in the preceding year). Since the introduction of the new Factories Act in July 1911 the inspection of factories by *ex-officio* Inspectors has been discontinued and the work of inspection is now carried out by the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal and Assam, and his staff. Thirteen out of the 16 factories were inspected once during the year. No breaches of the law on the part of the owners were disclosed, and the sanitary arrangements were reported to be on the whole satisfactory and the health of the operatives was good.

Four accidents were reported during the year. Of these, two were minor, two serious and none fatal.

There were no prosecutions under the Act.

SECTION 7.—Maritime Trade.

Nil.

SECTION 8.—Rail and River-borne trade.

[*See* Report on the trade carried by Rail and River of Assam during the year 1912-1913.]

Registration.

148. For the purpose of recording the trade carried by rail and river, Assam is divided into three blocks. A record of the trade of these three blocks by rail with one another and with other provinces is prepared in the Railway Audit offices. A similar procedure is followed in the case of steamer-borne trade. All traffic by country boat between Assam and Calcutta is recorded by special agencies maintained by the Calcutta Port Commissioners. The registering stations at Dhubri and Bhairab Bazar record all trade which enters or leaves the Brahmaputra and Surma Valley, respectively, by country boat.

Total Rail and River-borne trade.

149. The total trade with other provinces amounted to 19,463,269 maunds, the value of which was Rs. 18,86,22,639. Of the above, Rs. 5,98,84,234 represent imports and Rs. 12,87,38,435 exports. The climatic conditions of the year were on the whole favourable for cultivation and at the same time higher prices were obtained. Nearly 59 per cent. of the total trade was with Bengal, about 34 per cent. with Calcutta and 4 per cent. with Behar and Orissa. The trade with other provinces was insignificant.

Imports.

150. The total value of the imports of foreign cotton, twist and yarn, was 13·8 lakhs. The Lower Assam block imported the largest quantity. Of the cotton piece-goods imported, the value of the foreign produce was 128 lakhs.

There was a decrease in the importation of rice not in the husk and mustard oil. The figures of the import trade of mustard oil for the last three years were 117,161 maunds, 112,774 maunds and 103,699 maunds. This gradual decrease shows the increasing outturn of the oil mills of the province and is a matter for congratulation. In spite of the output from the oil fields at Digboi, the importation of kerosine oil increased owing apparently in the main to the crudeness of the oil produced by the Digboi fields. The importation of salt decreased in quantity from 929,799 maunds to 820,767 maunds, the reason assigned being that the large amount imported last year was in excess of the demand. The import of unrefined sugar increased from 306,543 maunds to 347,594 maunds and that of refined sugar from 141,431 maunds to 173,837 maunds. The largest quantity of the former was received by the Surma Valley and of the latter by the Upper Assam block. 83,924 maunds of raw tobacco were imported against 97,091 maunds in the previous year.

Exports.

151. Tea is the most important article of export and its value represents 75 per cent. of the total value of exports by rail and river. Of the total quantity 1,579,375 maunds and 740,987 maunds went to Calcutta and Chittagong, respectively, against 1,886,769 maunds and 723,195 maunds in the previous year. There was an increase of 33 per cent. in the export of jute and a very marked increase in the exports of paddy and rice amounting to 140 per cent. and 218 per cent., respectively. The exports of timber, mustard seed, hides and tobacco declined.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

SECTION 9.—Frontier Trade.

System of Registration.

152. Four new temporary registering stations were opened during the year, at Sadiya in the North-East Frontier Tract, Kokalabari in Kamrup, and Orang and Behali in Darrang. The station at Sadiya remained open throughout the year, the others only during the cold weather when the Bhutias visit the plains. The Inspector of Trade Registration offices inspected all the stations.

Trade.

153. The aggregate value of trade reported during the year was Rs. 26,89,124, to which imports contributed Rs. 16,84,788 and exports Rs. 10,04,336.

Bhutan.

154. Imports during the year were valued at Rs. 14,28,199, and exports at Rs. 9,85,703 against Rs. 5,95,336 and Rs. 41,82,688, respectively, in 1911-12. The increase in imports is attributed chiefly to bad harvests in the Hills which brought down the Bhutias in large numbers in search of rice, and the decrease in exports to an outbreak of cholera at Darrang which drove them back home before they had made all their purchases. Last year's figures also were found to have been grossly exaggerated by an incompetent Registrar.

Towang and Chardaur Bhutias.

155. Registered imports rose from Rs. 21,905 in 1911-12 to Rs. 58,700. The increase is due to the collection of statistics by a paid agency at Orang. Exports fell from Rs. 7,726 to Rs. 5,739 on account of a smaller export of paddy. The chief item of exports was manufactured silk.

Akas and Daflas.

156. The total imports fell by Rs. 27,109. The decline being most marked in the import of rubber. The Akas and Daflas visited the plains in smaller numbers in consequence of good harvests in the Hills. The total export was only Rs. 857.

Abors and Mishmis, etc.

157. The total value of imports rose from Rs. 94,218 in 1911-12 to Rs. 1,72,100. The larger amount of Mishmi *tita* " (dyeing materials—other kinds) " imported owing to the opening of an agency for it by a Parsi firm at Sadiya, and the greater accuracy in the collection of statistics obtained by a paid registering agency at Sadiya, account for the rise in imports. Exports rose from Rs. 10,441 in 1911-12 to Rs. 12,537. A good deal of the traffic must be attributed to the recent expeditions.

SECTION 10.—Public Works.

Personnel.

158. The Hon'ble Mr. W. McM. Sweet held the office of Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Local Administration in the Public Works Department throughout the year, except for the period from 8th August to 7th November 1912, when he was on leave, and Major H. W. Rushton, R.E., officiated as such, in addition to his own duties as Superintending Engineer, Assam Circle.

Major H. W. Rushton, R.E., held the post of Superintending Engineer, Assam Circle, throughout the year under report.

Mr. K. E. L. Pennell, an Assistant Engineer of the Imperial Service, was on appointment posted to the Assam Circle in October 1912, and two temporary Assistant Engineers, Messrs. R. B. Nandi and G. C. Bardalai, were locally engaged in November 1912 and February 1912, respectively, and posted to road construction work in the Mishmi Hills.

The services of Mr. E. W. Beveridge, a temporary Engineer in charge of the Sibsagar Division, were dispensed with in August 1912.

Changes in Circles of Superintendence.

159. From the 15th May 1912 the jurisdiction of the Assam Circle was curtailed by the transfer of the Sylhet and the Khasi and Jaintia Hills Divisions to the direct control of the Chief Engineer.

Revenue.

160. The total Public Works revenue amounted to Rs. 1,31,841 as detailed below :—

	Rs.
Imperial Military	7,850
Imperial Civil	1,940
Provincial	91,050
Local	31,001
Irrigation, Minor Works and Navigation	...
Total Revenue ...	1,31,841

Rents of buildings produced Rs. 74,399, of which Rs. 7,186 were Imperial Military, Rs. 1,692 Imperial Civil, Rs. 64,925 Provincial Civil and Rs. 647 Local. Rupees 18,792 were obtained from ferry receipts.

161. The total outlay on public works during the year amounted to Rs. 52,39,593 as detailed below :— Expenditure.

	Rs.
Imperial Military	47,739
Imperial Civil	60,687
Provincial Civil	37,26,316
Excluded Local Funds	8,83,952
Contribution Funds	4,54,265
Provincial Irrigation	66,634
Total Expenditure ...	52,39,593

162. No military works of any importance were underaken during the year. The principal civil works completed during the year were the combined Post and Telegraph offices at Haflong, Lungleh and Demagiri, the extensions to the post office buildings at Tezpur and Nowgong, and certain additions and alterations to the office building of the Comptroller at Shillong. Imperial Works.

The Telegraph office buildings at Gauhati (estimate Rs. 21,374) and Barpeta were approaching completion at the close of the year. The only other work of importance in progress was the construction of Telegraphists' quarters at Gauhati.

163. The expenditure on original works was Rs. 5,20,036, and on repairs Rs. 1,64,184. Provincial Works—Buildings.

164. The additions and alterations to Government House, Shillong, referred to in the Administration Report for the previous year were completed at a total cost of Rs. 19,096. Further additions and alterations to the dressing and bath-rooms of this building were also completed at a cost of Rs. 11,154. Local Government Residences.

The total expenditure on these works during the year amounted to Rs. 14,760.

165. The following were the principal original works completed during the year:— Official Residences.

	Rs.
(1) Residence for the Executive Engineer at Silchar	16,846
(2) Ditto ditto Jorhat	19,277
(3) Ditto ditto Tezpur	12,979
(4) Residence for the Superintendent of Police, Tezpur ...	14,656
(5) Residence for the Public Works Department Subdivisional Officer at North Lakhimpur.	8,905
(6) Residence for the Sub-Deputy Collector at Sidli	4,907
(7) Residence for the Armed Inspector at Sylhet	3,184

The property known as "Falls View" at Shillong was acquired for the residence of the Director of Public Instruction at a cost of Rs 7,500.

The principal works in progress were :—

(1) Residence for the Superintending Engineer at Jorhat (estimate Rs. 33,303).
(2) Residence for an Assistant Conservator of Forests at Jorhat.
(3) Ditto for a Hindu and a Muhammadan Professor, Cotton College, Gauhati.
(4) Reconstruction of the Subdivisional Officer's residence at Lungleh.
(5) Residence for the Additional Magistrate at Sylhet.
(6) Ditto the Assistant Superintendent of Police at Habiganj.
(7) Ditto the Public Works Department Subdivisional Officer at Karimganj.

166. The following works were in progress during the year :— General Administration.

(1) Office building for the Sub-Deputy Collector at Jorhat.
(2) Additions and alterations to the Treasury buildings at Tezpur and Karimganj.
(3) Construction of a Settlement office at Maulvi Bazar.

Law and Justice.

167. The principal works completed during the year were :—

(1) A double Munsifi at Sunamganj. (This work was completed at the close of the year except for the earthwork in raising the site.)

(2) Quarters for the Subordinate Civil Staff and a *post-mortem* shed at Haflong.

(3) Certain improvements to the kutchery buildings at Jorhat and North Lakhimpur.

(4) A witness shed at Hailakandi.

The reconstruction of the kutchery building at Mokokchang and the construction of a private room in the Munsif's Court at Maulvi Bazar were the only works of importance which were in progress at the close of the year.

Circuit-houses.

168. The tour clerks' quarters for the circuit house at Gauhati were completed during the year at a cost of Rs. 4,886.

Works in progress were :—

(1) A new circuit-house at Jorhat at an estimated cost of Rs. 25,380.

(2) Improvements to the circuit-houses at Goalpara and Dibrugarh.

(3) Reconstructon of the kitchen attached to the circuit-house at Sylhet.

Education.

169. At Silchar, an additional Moslem boarding house for the Government High School was constructed, a well was sunk in the hostel compound of the Training School, land was acquired for the office of the Inspector of Schools and the extension of the High School compound, wire-fencing was erected round the compound of the hostel and Superintendent's quarters of the Training School, the existing latrines at the Normal School were replaced by Donaldson's patent latrines, and the bamboo shingle roofs of the hostels and Resident Master's quarters of the Training School were re-roofed with corrugated iron.

Additional buildings were provided for the accommodation of the High Schools at Tezpur and Jorhat and certain additions and alterations and improvements were completed to the Fuller Technical Schools at Kohima and at Shillong and the Training School at Jorhat.

Hostels were constructed for the High Schools at Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Sunamganj and Jorhat and certain improvements were made to the hostel and attached buildings at Jorhat.

The extensive additions and alterations to the Pine Mount School at Shillong which were in progress during the previous year were completed during the year under report at a cost of Rs. 17,174.

Of the numerous works in progress, the principal were :—

(1) A new Arts Block for the Cotton College, Gauhati (estimate Rs. 49,076).

(2) Three additional hostels for Hindu students of the Cotton College, Gauhati (estimate Rs. 86,603).

(3) A hostel for Muhammadans, Cotton College, Gauhati (estimate Rs. 27,825).

(4) A combined school and hostel at Aijal.

(5) Collection of materials in connection with the provincialization of the Murarichand College, Sylhet.

(6) Construction of hostels at Kakojan, Nowgong and North Lakhimpur.

(7) Additions and improvements to the existing hostels and attached buildings at Sylhet.

Jails.

170. The works completed during the year were an office and gateway for the Nowgong jail and improvements to the jail buildings at Gauhati, Silchar and Kohima.

The works in progress were :—

(1) Additions and alterations to the jail buildings at Sibsagar.

(2) A leper ward with a kitchen for the Silchar jail.

(3) Two solitary cells and a stone enclosure wall for the Kohima jail.

(4) Certain improvements to the jail buildings, Silchar.

Police.

171. The folowing were the principal works completed :—

(1) Extension to the Police office at Sylhet.

(2) Additions and alterations to the office of the Inspector General of Police at Shillong.

(3) Quarters for the Court Sub-Inspector at Haflong, the compounder at Kohima, and a Head constable at North Lakhimpur.

(4) Office buildings at Dibrugarh.

(5) A Police Hospital at Nowgong.

The following were in progress:—

(1) Police buildings at Sunamganj, Gowainghat, Lakhai, Henema, Udarband, Dhekiajuli, Amguri, Sibsagar, Sorbheg and Teok.

(2) Office building at Gauhati.

(3) Hospital at Dhubri.

(4) Re-construction of the in-patient ward of the Military Police Hospital at Kohima.

(5) Military Police out post at Sherkor.

Medical.

172. The following works were completed :—

(1) Dispensary buildings at Gunjong.

(2) Extension of the Lady Minto Nursing Association bungalow at Dibrugarh.

(3) Mortuary at Karimganj.

(4) A Syphylitic ward at Mokokchang.

The most important works in progress were:—

(1) Temporary wards for the Lunatic Asylum at Tezpur.

(2) Two boarding houses for the Berry-White Medical School at Dibrugarh.

(3) A combined office for the Civil Surgeon and X-Ray installtation at Dibrugarh.

(4) Improvements to the dispensary at Kohima and the hospital buildings at Haflong.

(5) Additional works for the dispensaries at Wokha and Mokokchang.

(6) Quarters for the compounder, sweeper and *dovashi* at Wokha.

(7) Mortuaries at Habiganj and Maulvi Bazar.

(8) Hospital buildings at Sialsuk.

Excise.

173. The following works were in progress :—

(1) A double decked *mohua* godown for the distillery at Jorhat.

(2) A new office for the Superintendent of the Jorhat distillery and the conversion of the existing office into a *mohua* godown.

(3) A bonded warehouse at Nazira.

(4) Quarters for the staff of the bonded warehouse at Silchar.

Agriculture.

174. A Veterinary hospital at Silchar was completed during the year at a cost of Rs. 6,343.

Forests.

175. The additions and alterations to the Forest office at Sylhet, referred to in the previous year's report, were completed.

Ecclesiastical.

176. An extension to the cemetery at Dibrugarh was in progress.

P. W. D. Buildings.

177. The more important works under this head completed during the year were :—

(1) Improving the Executive Engineer's offices at Sylhet and Dibrugarh and certain additions and alterations to the office of the Chief Engineer at Shillong.

(2) Quarters for the Public Works Subordinates at Haflong and Jakhama, for the Public Works Subordinate and the Sub-Assistant Surgeon at Piphima, and for the Subdivisional clerk at North Lakhimpur.

(3) Conversion of the old Telegraph office building at Goalpara into a combined residence and office for the Public Works Department Subdivisional Officer.

Works in progress were :—

(1) Office buildings for the Superintending Engineer and Executive Engineer at Jorhat.

(2) A combined subdivisional office and tiffin room at Aijal.

(3) Quarters for the Public Works Subordinate at Laluk and for the Subdivisional Officer at Karimganj.

(4) Public Works Department subdivisional office and godown at Karimganj.

Communications.

178. The provincial outlay on Original Works amounted to Rs. 12,63,381 as detailed below :—

	Rs.
(*a*) Bridges	1,38,748
(*b*) New cart-roads	3,06,753
(*c*) Bridle roads	3,54,170
(*d*) Dâk and Inspection Bungalows	62,059
(*e*) Survey roads...	20
Total ...	8,61,750

The expenditure was divided as follows:—

	Rs.
Assam Circle	7,15,864
Divisions under the direct control of the Chief Engineer ...	1,45,886

The balance, Rs. 4,01,631, was spent on improvements to existing roads and on miscellaneous items.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Roads.

179. The most important works completed or in progress were :—

The continuation of the general improvements to Assam Trunk Road and the completion of the screw-pile bridges in the 9th mile west of Gauhati and over the Jogduar in the 205th mile in the Sibsagar Division.

The replacement of temporary bridges on the North Trunk Road by permanent structures was continued, the following bridges being completed during the year :—

(1) The iron bridge over the Moranadi in the 19th mile in the Lakhimpur Division.

(2) Extension of the bridge over the Mangaldai river in the Central Assam Division.

(3) Re-erection of the Tangnijhar bridge over the Diphang river in the Central Assam Division.

(4) An additional land span to the Barlia bridge on the 93rd mile in the Lower Assam Division.

A sum of Rs. 17,941 was spent during the year in raising the North Trunk Road between Howli and Sapona in the Lower Assam Division and Rs. 18,494 were spent in raising it between miles 69th and 75½ in the Central Assam Division. The work of demarcating with masonry pillars the road-side lands on either side of this road in the Central Assam Division was in progress.

The work of improving the curves and gradients on the Gauhati-Shillong road was completed during the year under report at a total cost of Rs. 1,44,271. The widening of the first eight miles of this road was in progress (estimate Rs. 19,518).

The work of completing the metalling and improving the Dimapur-Manipur road was in progress. The re-construction of a masonry bridge in the 119th mile which was damaged by floods was in progress. A portion of the road in the 42nd mile was being permanently damaged by wet terraced rice cultivation above it. To prevent this, a large area was acquired at a cost of Rs. 37,737.

The improvements to the Kothiatoli-Amluki road were still in progress. The expenditure at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 38,467.

The work of metalling the roads in the neighbourhood of Jorhat was continued The cart-road from the Noa Ali to the Cinnamara road was completed and the extension of the old Circuit House road and the continuation of the Borpatra Ali from the Assam Trunk Road to the Malowpathar road were practically finished.

The metalling of the Golaghat-Furkating road was taken up during the year.

The metalling and improving a section of the Wokha road in the Golaghat subdivision was nearly completed.

The raising of the 5th mile of the Sibsagar-Nazira road was in progress.

The construction of three permanent bridges in the 9th and 15th miles of the Golaghat-Shikarighat road was in progress and the 6th and 7th miles of this road were raised above flood-level.

The diversions in the 8th and 9th miles of the Desangmukh road were completed.

The restoration of the Goramur road, from North Lakhimpur to Lohit, was completed at a cost of Rs. 1,11,906.

The improvement of the Old Rajgarh Ali road was in progress.

The improvement of the Kobo-Passighat road was completed at a cost of Rs. 28,166. Its widening to render it suitable to take cart traffic was in progress.

The fair weather track, known as the Digaru-Miju road, was completed during the year.

The construction of the section of the Lohit Valley road between Sadiya and the Tidding river was undertaken by this Department, the remainder of the road being in the hands of the Military. The expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 3,29,899. The estimated cost of the Public Works Department Section is about 21 lakhs of rupees.

The metalling of three miles of the Jaipur road was commenced during the year.

The construction of the new approach road to the steamerghat at Dibrugarh was commenced.

The bridge in the 16th mile of the Tizu Valley road was completed.

Work on the birdle path, known as the Darranga-Dewangiri road, was in progress.

The improvement of the Tura-Dalu road was commenced. A wooden trestle bridge was replaced by a steel trussed girder bridge.

The construction of the Chapar-Sidli feeder road to the Eastern Bengal State Railway was in progress. The bridges over the rivers Ghoga, Barjhora, Kujla,

Kanibhur and Duramari were in hand. The expenditure at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 55,444.

The construction of the Barpeta-Howli road was taken up and Rs. 17,709 spent during the year.

A screw-pile bridge over the Joyma river in the 44th mile of the Dhubri-Kachugaon road was under construction.

Improvements to the Jogighopa-Chapaguri road were in hand at the close of the year.

Portions of the 2nd and 3rd miles of the Goâlpara-Agia road were metalled.

The raising and improving of the Tura-Rowmari road from Mankachar to the Sonabhuri were in progress.

The diversion at the 51st mile of the Sylhet-Cachar Trunk Road was completed and that at the 55th mile was in progress. A bridge on the 16th mile was reconstructed.

The metalling of the Cachar-Manipur road from the 4th mile to Fulertalghat (17th mile) was in progress.

The widening and metalling of the Silchar-Hailakandi road was in progress.

The portion of the Badarpur-Hailakandi road between Hailakandi and Syed Bund is being widened and metalled at an estimated cost of Rs. 39,750.

The re-placement of the corrugated iron pipes and bamboo bridges by brick culverts on the Burnimukh road was in progress.

The construction of the Haflong-Laisung road was in progress.

The Shamshernagar-Kaileshwar road was completed during the year. The construction of bridges was also completed.

The construction of the Kanaibazar-Ratabari cart-road was in progress. Rupees 42,812 were spent during the year.

Materials and tools and plant for the Natyakhal bridge were collected and a sum of Rs. 15,844 was spent.

The work of constructing bridges on the Maulvi Bazar-Shamshernagar road was commenced during the year.

The raising and metalling of the road from the inspection bungalow to the steamerghat at Sunamganj was in progress.

The work of improving the bridle path and the provision of open anchorages to the Tuichong suspension bridge on the Lungleh-Demagiri road was nearing completion at the end of the year.

The construction of the suspension bridge on the Aijal-Falam road across the Sonai river was still in progress at the end of the year.

180. A new Dâk bungalow at Jorhat was nearing completion. The combined Dâk and Inspection bungalows at Silghat and Margherita were in progress. Two new pontoons were provided for the floating Dâk bungalow at Dhansirimukh. Additional rooms were being provided for the Dâk bungalows at Silchar and Tinsukia and certain improvements to the Gauhati Dâk Bungalow were in hand. Dâk and Inspection Bungalows.

New Inspection bungalows were completed at Saikhowa and Phulbari and Inspection bungalows were in progress at Leithe and Ramri in the Lushai Hills and at Damalgiri, Mankachar, Kakojan, Bokakhat, Panigaon and on the old Sema road (five bungalows) in the Naga Hills.

181. On the maintenance of communications, the sum of Rs. 9,79,746 was spent during the year 1912-13. Maintenance of roads.

The following were the classes and the mileage of the roads:—

	Miles.
Metalled roads	387·22
Unmetalled roads (including bridle roads)	3,696·40

The above-mentioned expenditure includes the cost of repairs to Dâk and Inspection bungalows. The Manipur State, as usual, contributed Rs. 30,000 towards the up-keep of the Dimapur-Manipur cart-road.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

182. The following works were in progress :—

Miscellaneous Public Improvements.

(1) Acquisition of land for European Officers' residences and the raising and improving of the *maidan* at Jorhat. The construction of the water-works was also in hand, but owing to unseasonable rain the completion of the excavation of the reservoir tank was delayed.

(2) The laying-out of, and certain improvements to, the town of Dimapur.

(3) Materials were collected for the protection of the river bank at Dibrugarh which is being eroded by the Dibru river.

(4) Protection of the town of Dhubri against encroachment by the Brahmaputra.

(5) The provision of a pipe water-supply at Tura.

(6) Acquisition of the property known as "Ravenscroft" in Shillong.

Contribution works.

183. The scheme for providing a more ample and a purer supply of water at Shillong was practically completed at the end of the year. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 81,161.

The following improvements to the Gauhati water-works were in progress :—

(1) Connection of dead ends of pipe lines.

(2) Provision of an under-feed stoker.

(3) Improvements to the secondary reservoir in the Deputy Commissioner's compound.

(4) A third filter bed with an additional clear-water reservoir.

(5) Provision of meters to private stand-pipes.

The amount spent on maintenance was Rs. 17,337, of which Rs. 13,735 were contributed by the Municipality from water rates realized by that body.

The scheme for providing the town of Haflong with a filtered water-supply was nearing completion. Half the cost was contributed by the Assam-Bengal Railway. It is under consideration to replace the existing black pipes by galvanized pipes.

The construction of a combined Local Board and Municipal office at Tezpur and the levelling of the Golaghat *maidan* were the most important works completed during the year under report.

Works in progress were an operation room for the Dhubri Hospital, an out-door dispensary building and improvements to the existing dispensary at Tezpur, the protection of the river bank at Nowgong, construction of minor bridges on the Datma road and of a screw-pile bridge over the Dhaleswari river at Hailakandi and the sinking of masonry wells in the Sylhet Municipality.

In pursuance of a comprehensive programme for the improvement of communications, projects estimated to cost Rs. 11,56,984 were handed over by Local Boards to the Public Works Department for execution. A sum of Rs. 2,25,695 was spent during the year.

Minor Works and Navigation.

184. Snags were removed from the Barak, Kusiyara, Dhaleswari and Desang rivers and from the Jeeta and Kaya *khals*.

The bandalling of the mouth of Desang was completed and an unsuccessful attempt was made to divert the Dikrang river to its old channel.

The cutting of a portion of the bed of the Kullong river, along the lower mouth of its in-take, in order to improve its navigation, was completed. The subsequent dredging operations, which were carried out to maintain the cut, proved unsuccessful.

The work of improving and protecting the bunds and embankments in the Sibsagar Division, by the construction of spurs and diversions, was in progress.

Railways and Tramways.

185. During the calendar year 1912, an addition of 15·13 miles, representing the section of the branch line from Kulaura to the Kusiyara river, was made to the open mileage. The total mileage opened at the end of the year was therefore 889·15, as detailed below :—

(1) Eastern Bengal State Railway (Assam portion)	...	...	160·75
(2) Assam-Bengal Railway (Assam portion)	...	...	584·28
(3) Jorhat Provincial State Railway ...	...	...	32·50
(4) Dibru-Sadiya Railway (including Colliery Branch)	...	...	91·52
(5) Tezpur-Balipara Railway	...	...	20·10
Total	...	...	889·15

Assam-Bengal Railway (*gauge* 3'-3$\frac{3}{8}$").—The first section of the Kulaura-Sylhet branch line, from Kulaura to the Kusiyara river, 15·13 miles, was opened for traffic on the 16th April 1912. The construction of the second section—Kusiyara to Sylhet—16

miles, was in progress. The total mileage of open line (Assam portion) was 584·28 miles at the end of the calendar year 1912.

Eastern Bengal State Railway (*gauge* 3′-3⅜″).—The line from Rangia station to Tangla in the Darrang district, 24·30 miles, was completed, but was not opened for traffic until the 16th July 1913. The desirability of the early extension of this line to Tezpur has been urged on the Railway Board. The total mileage of open line (Assam portion) was 160·75 at the end of the calendar year 1912.

Jorhat Provincial State Railway (*gauge* 2 *feet*).—The total capital outlay, including suspense, to end of December 1912, amounted to Rs. 9,84,343. Gross earnings for the year 1912 amounted to Rs. 1,22,406 and the working expenses to Rs. 89,338, resulting in a net earning of Rs. 33,068 against Rs. 31,354 in the previous year.

Dibru-Sadiya Railway System (*gauge* 3′-3⅜″).—The total capital outlay, including suspense to end of December 1912, amounted to Rs. 1,04,79,496. The gross earnings for the year 1912 amounted to Rs. 13,08,569 and the working expenses to Rs. 7,46,583, resulting in a net earning of Rs. 5,61,986 against Rs. 4,30,708 in the previous year.

Ledo-Tikak Margherita Colliery Railway.—The capital outlay on this Railway remained the same as in the previous year, *viz.*, Rs. 16,94,069. The gross earnings for the year 1912 amounted to Rs. 96,954, and the working expenses to Rs. 54,997, resulting in a net earning of Rs. 41,957 against Rs. 30,429 in the previous year.

Tezpur-Balipara Railway (*gauge* 2′-6″).—The total capital outlay including suspense to end of 1912 remained unchanged and amounted to Rs. 4,87,240, giving an average of Rs. 24,362 per mile. The gross earnings for the year 1912 amounted to Rs. 1,20,634 and the working expenses to Rs. 85,926, resulting in a net earning of Rs. 34,708 against Rs. 31,892 in the previous year.

Messrs. Martin & Company have made proposals for the construction of a tramway line on the 2′-6″ gauge from Silghat to Chaparmukh on the Assam-Bengal Railway *viâ* Nowgong, a distance of 50 miles. The draft order and draft agreement have, since the close of the year, been received, and the proposal will shortly be submitted for the sanction of the Government of India.

The 1st section from Dwara to Maolong was practically completed during the year by "The Khasi Hills Company," to whom the rights and property of the Dwara-Therria Railway Company have been transferred by Messrs. H. V. Low & Company. Extraordinary floods however caused considerable damage, and the line is not expected to be opened to traffic until the 31st January 1914. The date for the completion of the Maolong-Therria section of the line has been extended up to 31st March 1915.

The following surveys by the Assam-Bengal Railway were in progress during the year :—

(1) Sealtek-Lalabazar Light Railway—Survey of a realignment of the first 5 miles of the project on 2′ gauge.
(2) Silchar to Tikalpur, 14 miles, on 2′ gauge.
(3) Silchar to Dwarbund, 22 miles, on 2′ gauge.

The detailed reports and estimates for the following projects have been received and forwarded to the Railway Board :—

(1) Srimangal-Manumukh Light Railway, 22½ miles, 2′ gauge.
(2) Habiganj-Shaistaganj-Begumkhan Light Railway, 16·31 miles, 2′ gauge.
(3) Sealtek-Lalabazar Light Railway, *viâ* Hailakandi, 23·30 miles, 2′ gauge.

Assistance rendered to Local Bodies.

186. Projects aggregating Rs. 12,11,524 were prepared for Local Bodies in Divisional offices, of which projects to the extent of Rs. 11,56,984 were handed over to the Public Works Department by those bodies for execution. A sum of Rs. 2,25,695 was spent during the year on these projects.

Besides the above, estimates to the extent of Rs. 5,55,516 were checked and professionally approved on behalf of the different Local Boards. Their works were also regularly inspected and check-measured by Executive Engineers, as Inspectors of Local Works, and their accounts audited and compiled in Divisional offices.

Cost of establishment.

187. The total expenditure by the Public Works Department under all heads amounted to Rs. 43,59,257. Of this amount, Rs. 6,44,416 and Rs. 83,983 were actually expended on Establishment and Tools and Plant, respectively. On the basis of these figures the cost of establishment amounted to 17·75 per cent. of the expenditure.

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CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

A.—GROSS REVENUE.

188. The receipts and charges of the province are shown in the tables below. The figures given here do not in every case tally with the corresponding figures given in the paragraphs which deal with the principal heads separately, since the latter are taken from the annual reports of the departments concerned. Apparent discrepancies are explained by the fact that the figures may refer to different periods, the departmental year not always coinciding with the financial year.

Receipts during 1912-1913.

Heads of Account.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
A.—Principal Heads of Revenue—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Land Revenue	—20,97,202	98,87,490	77,90,288
II.—Opium	5,27,298	...	5,27,298
III.—Salt	1,246	...	1,246
IV.—Stamps	6,51,106	6,51,106	13,02,212
V.—Excise	...	48,52,038	48,52,038
VI.—Provincial Rates	...	9,300	9,300
VII.—Customs	...	...	...
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	2,01,084	2,01,084	4,02,168
IX.—Forest	...	11,42,091	11,42,091
X.—Registration	...	93,275	93,275
XI.—Tributes from Native States... ...	50,100	...	50,100
Total A.—Principal Heads of Revenue	—6,66,368	1,68,86,384	1,61,70,016
B.—Interest—			
XII.—Interest	...	13,335	13,335
D.—Receipts by Civil Departments—			
XVIA.—Law and Justice—Courts of Law ...	...	1,15,152	1,15,152
XVIB.—Law and Justice—Jails	...	80,424	80,424
XVII.—Police	...	1,08,098	1,08,098
XVIII.—Ports and Pilotage	...	84	84
XIX.—Education	...	1,14,026	1,14,026
XX.—Medical	...	18,709	18,709
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments	...	20,770	20,770
Total D.—Receipts by Civil Departments	...	4,57,263	4,57,263
E.—Miscellaneous Civil Receipts—			
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation, etc....	24,914	3,414	28,328
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing	372	10,490	10,862
XXV.—Miscellaneous...	6,684	67,550	74,234
Total E.—Miscellaneous Civil Receipts	31,970	81,454	1,13,424
H.—Railways—			
XXVI.—State Railways (Gross Receipts) ...	...	1,22,589	1,22,589
Deduct Working Expenses ...	...	84,545	84,545
Net Railway Receipts	...	38,044	38,044
J.—Irrigation—			
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation ...	...	...	...
K.—Other Public Works—			
XXXI.—Civil Works, Civil	...	49,713	49,713
Ditto, Public Works ...	1,940	91,051	92,991
Total K.—Other Public Works	1,940	1,40,764	1,42,704
L.—Military Receipts—			
XXXIV.—Military Works	7,850	...	7,850
Grand total ...	—6,24,608	1,75,67,244	1,69,42,636

Expenditure during 1912-1913.

Heads of Account.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
A.—Direct demands on the revenue—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Refunds and drawbacks	11,972	26,120	38,092
2. Assignments and compensations	29,939	16,217	46,156
3. Land revenue	...	14,26,387	14,26,387
5. Salt	1,353	...	1,353
6. Stamps	27,071	27,072	54,143
7. Excise	...	1,11,963	1,11,963
8. Provincial rates	...	...	...
9. Customs	...	...	...
10. Assessed taxes	2,336	2,335	4,671
11. Forest	...	8,08,910	8,08,910
12. Registration	...	55,970	55,970
Total A.—Direct demands on the revenue ...	72,671	24,74,974	25,47,645
B.—Interest—			
13. Interest on ordinary debt	...	24,612	24,612
14. Interest on other objections—			
Civil	16,111	...	16,111
Public Works	884	...	884
Total B.—Interest	16,995	24,612	41,607
D.—Salaries and expenses of Civil Departments—			
18. General Administration	1,49,352	6,04,967	7,54,319
19*a*. Law and Justice (Courts of Law) ...	...	9,06,946	9,06,946
19*b*. Ditto (Jails)	...	2,48,792	2,48,792
20. Police	...	22,33,438	22,33,438
21. Ports and pilotage	...	63,048	63,048
22. Education	...	9,73,070	9,73,070
23. Ecclesiastical	18,110	...	18,110
24. Medical	...	6,21,244	6,21,244
25. Political	...	4,65,207	4,65,207
26. Scientific and other Minor Departments ...	13,282	1,71,301	1,84,583
Total D.—Salaries and expenses of Civil Departments	1,80,744	62,88,013	64,68,757
E.—Miscellaneous—			
27. Territorial and Political Pensions	4,686	...	4,686
28. Civil furlough and absentee allowances ...	...	...	...
29. Superannuation allowances and pensions ...	...	2,43,462	2,43,462
30. Stationery and Printing	602	1,76,424	1,77,026
32. Miscellaneous	12,081	3,62,187	3,74,268
Total E.—Miscellaneous	17,369	7,82,073	7,99,442
F.—Famine Relief and Insurance—			
33. Famine relief	...	3,602	3,602
35. Construction of Protective Irrigation Works ...	...	...	...
Total F.—Famine Relief and Insurance ...	...	3,602	3,602
H.—Railway Revenue Accounts—			
40. Subsidised companies	...	5,112	5,112
41. Miscellaneous Railway Expenditure ...	...	4,362	4,362
Total H.—Railway Revenue Accounts ...	...	9,474	9,474
I.—Irrigation—			
43. Minor Works and Navigation—			
Civil	...	...	...
Public Works	...	66,634	66,634
K.—Other Public Works—			
44. Construction of Railways	...	63,984	63,984
45. Civil Works—			
Civil	...	5,89,901	5,89,901
Public Works	60,687	37,19,293	37,79,980
Total K.—Other Public Works	60,687	43,73,178	44,33,865
L.—Military Works Services—			
47. Military Works (Ordinary)	47,739	...	47,739
Grand total ...	3,96,205	1,40,22,560	1,44,18,765

Abstract of Receipts and Expenditure.

	1911-1912.			1912-1913.			1912-1913 compared with 1911-1912.			
	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Net receipts + or net expenditure —.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Net receipts + or net expenditure —.	Increase of revenue.	Decrease of revenue.	Increase of expenditure.	Decrease of expenditure.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Principal Heads of Revenue.	1,51,17,026	26,60,737	1,24,56,289	1,61,70,016	25,47,645	1,36,23,371	10,52,990	...	...	1,13,082
II.—Departmental Heads—										
Interest	10,840	11,666	—826	13,335	41,607	—28,272	2,495	...	29,941	...
Civil Departments ...	4,63,089	58,74,190	—54,10,501	4,57,263	64,68,757	—60,11,494	...	6,426	5,94,567	...
Miscellaneous ...	1,04,163	7,51,814	—6,47,651	1,13,424	7,99,442	—6,86,018	9,261	...	47,628	...
Famine Relief and Insurance.	...	...	...	...	3,602	—3,602	...	...	3,602	...
Railway Revenue Accounts.	32,358	12,430	19,928	38,044	9,474	28,570	5,686	...	...	2,050
Irrigation	...	63,676	—63,676	...	66,634	66,634	...	...	2,958	...
Other Public Works ...	1,35,601	33,80,895	—32,45,294	1,42,704	44,33,865	—42,91,161	7,103	...	10,52,970	...
Military Works Services	...	...	...	7,350	47,739	—39,389	7,350	...	47,739	...
Total Departmental Heads ...	7,46,651	1,00,94,671	—93,48,020	7,72,620	1,18,71,120	—1,10,98,500	32,395	6,426	17,79,405	2,956
Grand Total	1,58,63,677	1,27,55,408	31,08,269	1,69,42,636	1,44,18,765	25,23,871	10,85,385	6,426	17,79,405	1,16,048

189. The expenditure of the year compares as follows with that of 1911-12 :—

3.—Land Revenue.

No.	Minor heads.	Increase.	Decrease.
1	2	3	4
			Rs.
1	Charges of District Administration	...	14,000
2	Management of Government estates	...	2,000
3	Charges on account of Land Revenue Collections	...	19,000
4	Ditto Fishery Collections	...	1,000
5	Survey and Settlement	...	39,000
6	Land Records	...	9,000

Smaller charges for salaries of officers and establishments chiefly account for the decrease under the first head. Commission on collections was higher in 1911-12 owing to the payment of arrears of 19 0-11. The decrease in the expenditure under Survey and Settlement is due to the small expenditure on the Settlement operations in Lakhimpur in 1912-13. No charge on fishery collection was incurred in 1912-13 except for the payment of certain outstanding bills of the preceding year.

190. The details by minor heads of the actuals and estimates under the head are shown below in round figures :—

18.—General Administration.

Minor heads.	Actuals, 1911-12.	Budget, 1912-13.	Actuals, 1912-13.	Comparison with actuals, 1911-12.	Comparison with Budget, 1912-13.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Salary of Lieutenant-Governor, etc. ...	48,000	61,000	51,000	+ 3,000	— 10,000
Staff and Household of Lieutenant-Governor, etc.	23,000	29,000	44,000	+ 21,000	+ 15,000
Expenditure from contract allowance ...	17,000	14,000	30,000	+ 13,000	+ 16,000
Tour expenses	18,000	8,000	6,000	— 12,000	— 2,000
Legislative Council	5,000	5,000	14,000	+ 9,000	+ 9,000
Civil Secretariat	2,85,000	1,80,000	2,22,000	— 63,000	+ 42,000
Board of Revenue	65,000	...	4,000	— 61,000	+ 4,000
Commissioners	1,29,000	1,38,000	1,39,000	+ 10,000	+ 1,000
Civil Offices of Account and Audit— Imperial	1,70,000	1,40,000	1,49,000	— 21,000	+ 9,000
Provincial	18,000	20,000	14,000	— 4,000	— 6,000
Inspector-General of Registration and Commissioner of Excise, etc.	4,000	70,000	38,000	+ 34,000	— 32,000
Director of Land Records and Agriculture ...	...	45,000	43,000	+ 43,000	— 2,000
Total ...	7,82,000	7,10,000	7,54,000	— 28,000	+ 44,000

The saving under the head "Salary of the Chief Commissioner," etc., is due to excess provision in the budget estimate for 1912-1913. The excesses over the budget on account of "Staff and Household, etc." were composed of various petty items, the more important of which were the furniture grant (Rs. 6,000) and motor-car charges (Rs. 3,000).

The actuals under "Expenditure from contract allowance" exceeded the budget for 1912-1913 (by Rs. 16,000) mainly on account of the purchase of a motor-car.

The increase under "Legislative Council" was due to a large expenditure on furniture for the Council Chamber for which no provision was made in the Budget. The excess over the budget under "Civil Secretariat" was due to inadequate provision in the budget.

The expenditure under "Board of Revenue" represents the salary of a member of the Board of Revenue of Eastern Bengal and Assam for March 1912 which was paid in Assam.

The increase under "Commissioners" as compared with 1911-1912 was due to charges incurred for marine stores (Rs. 4,000) and various other petty items.

The saving under "Civil Offices of Account and Audit—Provincial" was due to the fact that the salary and travelling allowance of the Examiner of Local Accounts, who is also Assistant Comptroller, is debited in moieties between Imperial and Provincial.

The saving under "Inspector-General of Registration" was due partly to the fact that the lump provision (of Rs. 18,000) for conveyance of opium by private steamer from Calcutta was not required, and partly to the fact that the salaries and other charges of the Assistant Registrar and the Inspector of Co-operative Societies, which were provided for under this head, were adjusted in the accounts under 26.—Scientific, etc.

Except under the head "Commissioners" the actuals of 1912-1913 are not susceptible of comparison with the actuals of 1911-1912, which only represent the charges of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam drawn from Assam Treasuries.

B.—IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

SECTION 1.—Land Revenue.

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1912-13.]

Land Revenue.

191. The total ordinary land revenue demand for the year rose from Rs. 72,36,111 to Rs. 74,55,474, of which Rs. 71,61,756 were collected and Rs. 10,150 were remitted on account of local calamities. The total demand on account of miscellaneous land revenue amounted to Rs. 6,75,312 or Rs. 39,497 more than in the preceding year. The total collections rose from Rs. 6,22,599 to Rs. 6,59,180 and remissions from Rs. 3,889 to Rs. 5,276.

SECTION 2.—Sources of Revenue other than Land Revenue.

Opium.

192. The receipts on account of opium amounted to Rs. 5,27,298 as compared with Rs. 5,13,410 in the preceding year.

Salt.

193. There were salt transactions in the district of Sylhet only. Messrs. Turner Morrison & Co. had a salt bonded warehouse at Balaganj, and a new warehouse was started during the year at Ajmiriganj by Babus Krishna Prosad and Gopi Mohan Ray. The former has been closed since the end of the year. Imports of salt during the year under report amounted to 46,606 maunds against 66,975 maunds in the previous year, whilst clearances amounted to 58,440 maunds, of which 36,231 maunds were from Balaganj as against 54,588 maunds in 1911-12. The decrease in clearances at Balaganj is attributed to the decline in trade of that mart owing to the extension of the railway line to Fenchuganj. The average wholesale price of salt in the bazar at the district headquarters during the year remained the same as in the preceding year, Rs. 2-4 a maund. The net revenue was Rs. 55,403 or 5,041 less than in 1911-12.

Excise.

194. The total revenue demand for the year under report was Rs. 47,62,593 as compared with Rs. 44,50,807 in the preceding year, showing an increase of Rs. 3,11,786 or 7 per cent. The increase was shared by both the Valleys. Duty yielded an increase of Rs. 3,27,638 or 11·4 per cent., while under license fees there was a decrease of Rs. 15,670 or 1·0 per cent. The increase in duty was mainly due to the raising of the distillery duty on country liquor from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 3-2 per L. P. gallon and to the enhancement in the four upper districts of the Assam Valley of the treasury price on opium from Rs. 40 to Rs. 42 per seer. Of the total demand recoverable during the year 99·90 per cent. was realised, the total receipts being Rs. 48,52,029 against Rs. 44,43,910 in the previous year. The total expenditure of the Department amounted to Rs. 1,14,609 against Rs. 1,09,765 in the preceding year. This expenditure represents 2·36 per cent. of the total receipts.

The outstill system of supply was in force in the North Lakhimpur subdivision and the contract supply system in the remaining plains districts of the Province. The revenue from country spirits was Rs. 1,91,870 more than in the preceding year, the percentage of increase being 15·78 ; to this the contract supply system contributed 98·13 per cent. Receipts from *ganja* fell from Rs. 6,88,645 to Rs. 6,87,193 owing to a decline in consumption. The total revenue from opium increased by Rs. 2 15,952, the figures being Rs. 27,38,307 as compared with Rs. 25,22,355 in the previous year. The increase was due to good settlements and the growth of consumption.

The samples of distillery country spirit which were sent for analysis during the year under report were reported in each case to be of excellent quality and free from any deleterious substance.

Local opinion as to the position of shops was freely consulted. The site of a country spirit shop which was objected to by the manager of a neighbouring tea estate was altered with his consent and that of the local general public. Changes on similar lines were made in the case of three opium shops.

The enhancement of the duty on country spirit has not entirely checked the increase in consumption, but it has resulted in reducing the percentage of increase from 12·9 in 1911-12 to 3·5 in 1912-13, the latter figure being the lowest increase recorded since the extension of the distillery system to the greater part of the province in 1908-09.

The consumption of opium rose by 2·9 per cent. whilst that of *ganja* showed a slight decline.

The report of the committee appointed to enquire into the question of opium and *ganja* consumption in the five upper districts of the Assam Valley is under consideration. During the year the limit of private possession and retail sale of opium was reduced from 5 to 3 tolas and the privilege hitherto accorded to vendors of buying a seer at a time from another vendor was withdrawn. Proposals for raising the duty on opium in the areas of highest consumption are under consideration.

The duty on *ganja* was raised during the year from Rs. 11 to Rs. 12 per seer in the districts of Goalpara and the Garo Hills and to Rs. 13 per seer in the remaining districts of the province. In Kamrup the *ganja* habit is said to be spreading among the indigenous Assamese. The danger of driving people to the use of *ganja* is one of the chief dangers to be guarded against in endeavouring to reduce the consumption of opium. A further enhancement of the rate of duty on *ganja* to Rs. 16 per seer throughout the province will take effect from the 1st April 1914.

Negotiations are still proceeding with the Hill Tippera Durbar regarding excise arrangements on the Hill Tippera border. The Durbar has declined the offer of this Administration to take a lease of the Hill Tippera shops within five miles of the Sylhet border. The desirability of effecting a reduction in the number of these shops and an improvement in their management has been impressed on the Durbar.

195. The revenue collected under the Stamp and Court Fees Acts amounted to Rs. 12,80,991 against Rs. 11,85,941 in the preceding year. Of the total increase, of Rs. 95,050, which was contributed to by both Valleys, judicial stamps were responsible for Rs. 65,157 and non-judicial stamps for Rs. 29,893. The charges fell from Rs. 40,391 to Rs. 36,720. The number of stamp vendors increased from 319 to 335, the chief increase being in Sylhet. With the larger sales the discount allowed rose by Rs. 2,517. The number of stamp prosecutions and the amount of fines imposed increased from 17 and Rs. 93 in the preceding year to 31 and Rs. 318, respectively, in the year under report. Stamp.

Nineteen cases of the valuation of estates for the issue of probate or letters of Administration were reported to Collectors as compared with 21 in the previous year. All the cases except one were enquired into before the close of the year.

196. The total income-tax receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 4,02,463 against Rs. 3,75,045 in the preceding year. There was thus an increase of 6·8 per cent. The increase was shared by both the Valleys. The number of persons finally assessed and the final demand for the year were 4,765 and Rs. 3,27,957 respectively. Income-tax.

Section 3.—Provincial Finance.

Year.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1911-12	...	1,08,32,564	1,23,36,294	...
1912-13	41,96,000	1,75,67,244	1,40,22,560	77,40,684

The Provincial Service account of Assam, after the dissolution of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, opened with a balance of Rs. 41,96,000. This opening balance included a sum of Rs. 7,17,000 on account of the share of Assam of the unspent balances of the various non-recurring Imperial assignments made to the late Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam in 1910-1911 for the development of sanitation and education and for the reorganization of the subordinate and river police, and also a sum of Rs. 1,96,000 representing the share of Assam of the special Imperial grants for sanitation and agriculture, etc., made in 1911-1912 out of the opium surplus of that year.

In the budget estimate a deficit of Rs. 13,000 was estimated, the receipts, expenditure and closing balance being taken at Rs. 1,21,80,000, Rs. 1,21,93,000 and Rs. 41,83,000, respectively. It is hardly necessary to explain that the estimated deficit indicates no insufficiency of resources. The province was able in the course of the year to spend usefully more money than had been anticipated.

Assam had no separate financial settlement for the year 1911-1912, as it then formed a part of the late Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The receipts of 1911-1912 do not therefore include any assignments from Imperial to Provincial revenues or *vice versâ*. Compared with the actuals of 1911-1912, the receipts in 1912-1913, excluding assignments, amounted to Rs. 1,15,87,000 and were better by Rs. 7,55,000. The expenditure exceeded that of 1911-1912 by Rs. 16,86,000.

Compared with the budget estimate of the year, the actuals in 1912-1913 on the receipt side were better by Rs. 53,87,000. Of this, the actual increase of revenue amounts to Rs. 2,46,000 only, the rest being due to additional assignments from Imperial to Provincial revenues sanctioned for various purposes during the course of the year. The expenditure exceeded the budget estimate by Rs. 18,80,000, of which Rs. 18,01,000 was covered by an extra budget provision sanctioned by the Government of India before the close of the year. The increase on the receipt side accrued under all the heads except Forest, Courts of Law and Jails, which show decreases of Rs. 1,68,000, Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 25,000, respectively. The fall under "Forests" is due to the fact that the budget figure was too high. The more important increases occurred under "Land Revenue" (Rs. 48,000), "Stamps" (Rs. 39,000), "Excise" (Rs. 2,52,000). The expansion of revenue was underestimated in all these cases. Increased consumption and a rise in the settlement prices of licenses for country spirits and opium and an enhancement in the rate of still-head duty accounted for the large increase in Excise receipts.

The excess in the expenditure over the budget occurred chiefly under General Administration (Rs. 39,000), Courts of Law (Rs. 72,000), Political (Rs. 3,73,000), Civil Works—Civil (Rs. 3,32,000), Civil Works—Public Works (Rs. 12,19,000), but there were savings under "Forests" (Rs. 34,000), "Medical" (Rs. 1,81,000), "Scientific and other Minor Departments" (Rs. 59,000). The excess under "Courts of Law" was mainly due to inadequate provision for law charges, diet and road money to witnesses, remuneration to copyists, and salaries of officers. The excess under "Political" was due to the omission of any provision in the budget for the new expenditure incurred on the North-East Frontier. Special grants made to local bodies, for which no budget provision had been made, accounted for the increase under "Civil Works—Civil," while the expenditure figures under "Civil Works —Public Works" were swelled by the construction of works for the Education and other departments, the cost of which was met from the budgets of the departments concerned by transfer to the Public Works budget where they were adjusted in the accounts. The construction of the Lohit Valley road on the North-East Frontier, which was not provided for in the budget, accounted for a further increase of Rs. 3,30,000 under this head. The savings under "Forests" were due to smaller departmental operations, the budget figure on the expenditure as well as on the receipt side having been pitched too high. The savings under "Scientific and other Minor Departments" were due to the fact that the budget provision for the Agricultural Chemist and the Chemical Laboratory were not utilized. The savings under "Medical" are more apparent than real, as the expenditure from the lump Sanitary grant of Rs. 2,58,500 was adjusted under "Civil Works."

SECTION—4. Local Funds.

197. The following statement shows the receipts and charges during the year of those Local Funds, of which an account is submitted to Government.

A

Statement showing the income, expenditure and balance of Local Boards in Assam during 1912-13.

Names of Local Boards.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1. Dibrugarh	47,505 4 6	1,52,510 3 11	2,00,015 8 5	1,46,589 11 11	53,425 12 6
2. North Lakhimpur	19,546 5 4	66,862 2 0	86,408 7 4	63,890 3 6	22,518 3 10
3. Sibsagar	34,814 0 7	1,24,180 15 4	1,58,994 15 11	1,20,834 5 11	38,160 10 0
4. Jorhat	3,701 4 8	1,06,484 13 10	1,10,186 2 6	87,887 2 6	22,299 0 0
5. Golaghat	11,999 9 5	61,194 3 2	73,194 1 7	60,588 1 7	12,606 0 0
6. Nowgong	8,041 0 2	88,643 7 9	96,684 7 11	73,432 13 11	23,251 10 0
7. Tezpur	22,062 15 7	1,01,795 7 3	1,23,858 6 10	90,937 3 3	32,921 3 7
8. Mangaldai	37,738 3 9	97,013 6 11	1,34,751 10 8	93,976 13 11	40,774 12 9
9. Gauhati	27,531 10 7	1,97,486 7 2	2,25,018 1 9	1,61,011 14 11	64,006 2 10*
10. Barpeta	21,624 11 3	48,448 4 0	70,072 15 3	52,558 9 11	17,514 5 4
11. Dhubri	38,957 13 9	1,15,790 10 3	1,54,748 8 0	1,13,637 7 4	41,111 0 8
12. Goalpara	15,125 1 0	64,975 6 11	80,100 7 11	59,508 12 0	20,591 11 11
13. Silchar	17,995 1 8	1,46,311 0 10	1,64,306 2 6	1,30,552 0 9	33,754 1 9†
14. Hailakandi	24,351 14 10	55,901 6 10	80,253 5 8	58,795 1 0	21,458 5 7
15. North Sylhet	3,392 11 4	1,24,317 2 0	1,27,709 13 4	1,18,554 15 3	9,154 14 1
16. Habiganj	10,231 1 4	1,46,949 1 10	1,57,180 3 2	1,05,794 9 2	51,385 10 0‡
17. Sunamganj	9,627 10 4	91,693 3 7	1,01,320 13 11	88,801 15 7	12,518 14 4§
18. South Sylhet	39,354 9 6	1,19,194 11 1	1,58,549 4 7	88,960 6 5	69,588 14 2
19. Karimganj	22,529 10 0	1,26,817 14 0	1,49,347 8 0	12,700 3 3	22,347 7 9
Grand total ...	4,16,130 11 7	20,36,570 5 8	24,52,701 1 3	18,43,312 7 2	6,09,388 10 1

* Acceptance certificate awaited.
† As per treasury memorandum Rs. 33,129-1 which was accepted by the Chairman. The difference of Rs. 634-0-9 is due to an adjustment made in the office accounts for March 1913, for which an acceptance certificate has been called for.
‡ Acceptance certificate awaited.
§ The figure accepted by the Chairman is six pies less which is under correspondence.

B

Statement showing the income, expenditure and balance of Municipalities in Assam during 1912-13.

Names of Municipalities.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payment.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1. Silchar	3,850 6 8	1,06,727 8 6	1,10,577 15 2	26,787 9 1	83,790 6 1
2. Hailakandi	2,174 12 7	12,231 15 9	14,406 12 4	12,195 6 1	2,211 6 3
3. Tezpur	4 537 0 4	24,568 3 5	29,105 3 9	24,900 5 2	4,204 14 7
4. Dhubri	3,365 10 10	51,654 15 6	55,020 10 4	26,449 15 8	28,570 10 8
5. Goalpara	943 1 0	9,936 10 10	10,879 11 10	9,860 8 7	1,019 3 3
6. Barpeta	2,511 11 6	14,755 8 7	17,267 4 1	13,214 1 4	4,053 2 9
7. Gauhati	10,369 3 2	71,699 10 1	82,068 13 3	62,966 15 9	19,101 13 6
8. Shillong	10,158 1 5	60,939 15 4	80,098 0 9	62,753 13 1	17,344 3 8
9. Dibrugarh	2,737 13 2	40,731 8 2	43,469 5 4	36,891 6 5	6,577 14 11
10. Nowgong	599 0 10	17,202 2 5	17,801 3 3	17,520 2 2	281 1 1
11. Golaghat	951 12 4	29,756 9 3	30,708 5 7	7,241 0 6	23,467 5 1*
12. Jorhat	1,20,862 5 4	15,504 0 3	1,36,366 5 7	1,34,269 12 0	2,096 9 7
13. Sibsagar	6,793 3 4	15,815 6 4	22,608 9 8	18,162 10 11	4,445 14 9
14. Nazira	4,237 5 9	5,563 9 0	9,800 14 9	3,311 5 3	6,489 9 6
15. Habiganj	1,131 7 0	8,207 12 2	9,339 3 2	4,009 1 10	5,330 1 4
16. Sylhet	13,665 12 6	38,369 15 3	52,035 11 9	39,588 11 10	12,446 15 11
Grand Total ...	1,88,888 11 9	5,32,665 6 10	7,21,554 2 7	5,00,122 13 8	2,21,431 4 11

* Acceptance certificate awaited. There is a difference of Rs. 108, which is under correspondence.

C

Statement showing the income, expenditure and balance of Town and Bazar Funds in Assam during 1912-1913.

Names of Town Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
North Cachar Hills Bazar Fund	316 4 9	12,567 11 6	12,883 16 10	2,553 11 11	10,330 3 11
Mangaldai Town Fund	1,840 14 3	4,343 9 0	6,184 7 3	2,849 15 3	3,334 8 0
Jowai Bazar Fund	409 9 8	515 3 0	924 9 8	348 0 11	576 11 9*
North Lakhimpur Town Fund	4,745 1 8	4,058 11 4	8,803 13 0	3,762 3 11	5,041 9 1
Total	7,311 14 4	21,485 2 5	28,797 0 9	9,514 0 0	19,283 0 9

* Acceptance certificate awaited.

D

Statement showing the income, expenditure and balance of Cantonment Funds, Chaukidari Reward Funds and Assam Williamson Education Fund, during 1912-13.

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6
(a) Cantonment Funds—	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	1,924 2 0	14,936 15 6	16,861 1 6	14,367 5 0	2,493 12 6
Lakhimpur	638 0 7	2,985 8 7	3,623 9 2	3,076 3 1	547 6 1
Total	2,562 2 7	17,922 8 1	20,484 10 8	17,443 8 1	3,041 2 7
(b) District Chaukidari Reward Fund—					
1. Cachar	1,210 15 9	666 10 9	1,877 10 6	85 0 0	1,792 10 6*
2. Goalpara	10,652 10 10	695 6 3	11,348 1 1	845 5 0	10,502 12 1
3. Sylhet...	8,272 2 1	2,653 13 0	10,925 15 1	2,145 13 0	8,780 2 1
Total	20,135 12 8	4,015 14 0	24,151 10 8	3,076 2 0	21,075 8 8
Assam Williamson Education Fund ...	13,589 11 7	3,924 15 3	17,514 10 10	2,962 0 10	14,552 10 0

* Acceptance certificate awaited.

SECTION—5. Local Rates.

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1912-13.]

198. With the increase in the land revenue demand there was a corresponding increase in the demand on account of local rates. The current demand rose from Rs. 7,73,445 to Rs. 7,83,451, of which Rs. 7,02,572 or 89·67 per cent. was collected, as against 88 72 per cent. in the preceding year. In Sylhet, where assessments of 689

separate accounts have been under revision, the assessment of 29 separate accounts was completed during the year and resulted in a net increase of Rs. 800.

Inclusive of arrears, the total demand rose from Rs. 8,57,498 to Rs. 8,74,022, of which Rs. 7,92,183 or 90·63 per cent. was collected, as against 89·54 per cent. in the preceding year, and Rs. 98 remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 81,736 against Rs. 89,641 in 1911-1912.

SECTION 6.—Educational Cesses.

Nil.

SECTION 7.—Municipal Revenues.

199. The subject of Municipal income and expenditure has been discussed in Section 8, Municipal Administration, Chapter III, of this report.

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

SECTION 1.—Vital Statistics.

200. For the purpose of vital statistics the ratios are calculated on a population of 6,051,507, the population of the hill districts and the Manipur State being excluded. The recorded birth-rate of the Province, excluding the hill districts in which registration is imperfect, was 32·16 per mille, which represents a slight improvement over that of the previous year. The death-rate rose from 23·61 to 25·04 per mille. The natural increase (7·12) in the population, *i.e.*, the excess of births over deaths though 1·25 less than that of the preceding year, was greater than the average of the five previous years. The lowest birth-rate is recorded in Nowgong and is ascribed to the fact that the indigenous population of that district has not yet recovered its vitality after the severe epidemic of *kala-azar* from which it suffered in the "nineties." The ratio of mortality from the chief diseases were :—fever (12·94), cholera (2·36), dysentery and diarrhœa (2·19) and small-pox ·77. The highest mortality was from fever, the highest ratio being (27·50) in Goalpara and (19·58) in Darrang. The death-rate from cholera was lower than the average of the previous decade. The highest ratio of mortality from this disease was recorded in Darrang (6·37) and Nowgong (6·27). Small-pox claimed a rather larger number of victims than in the previous year. The mortality from dysentery and diarrhœa shewed no marked departure from the average of recent years, and the greatest incidence of these diseases occurred, as usual, amongst the population of the tea estates.

The following table gives the recorded results of the registration of vital statistics in the hill districts :—

Districts.	Birth ratios.		Death ratios.	
	1911.	1912.	1911.	1912.
1	2	3	4	5
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	26·72	28·21	22·03	24·19
Shillong	25·29	18·47	15·54	14·66
Naga Hills	32·60	32·19	21·04	18·98
Lushai Hills	41·16	37·58	28·65	32 03
Garo Hills	30·91	29·35	22·43	24·78

SECTION 2.—Immigration and Labour Inspection.

[*See* Resolution on Immigrant Labour in Assam for the year 1912-13.]

201. These remarks relate to the labour force imported for employment on tea gardens in Assam, in the oil refinery at Digboi, in coal-mines and in certain saw-mills. The labour employed on railways is excluded, and no account is taken of those labourers who are temporarily employed during the cold weather and return to their homes in April and May.

202. The year was again a prosperous one for the tea industry. The demand for labour continued to increase, and, although there was no scarcity in the recruiting districts, there was a considerable increase in immigration. Mortality during transit remained low, and the year was a healthy one in the tea gardens.

General. Since the close of the year the Government of India have decided that the labour districts provisions of Act VI of 1901 shall be withdrawn from the four upper districts of the Brahmaputra Valley with effect from the 1st July 1914, and that recruitment by contractors and recruiters shall cease a year later. These changes have been accepted by the tea industry, and during the year under review a further advance has been made in the gradual substitution of free for indentured labour. To meet the changed

conditions when there will no longer be a penal contract, and to give employers some remedy against the enticement of labour which they have imported at considerable cost, proposals which have been administratively approved by the Government of India, have been framed, and a Bill on the subject will, it is hoped, be introduced in the Legislative Council of the Chief Commissioner in the forthcoming session. This measure provides no penalty against a labourer who leaves his employer's service, but enables the employer to recover, by a summary procedure, the cost of importation of the labourer from any one who unlawfully employs him. The provisions of the Bill were discussed at a widely attended conference held in Shillong, and the Chief Commissioner accepted the view that the Bill should be regarded as a temporary measure, and should have effect for a period of five years only.

In the Resolutions of other Local Governments on emigration to Assam, reference has been made to the fact that Act VI of 1901 does not allow of the control of emigration from Native States. The question of undertaking legislation to deal with this defect is under the consideration of the Government of India.

The subject of the absconding of labourers from the tea gardens of Sylhet into Hill Tippera, and of the manner in which warrants under Act XIII of 1859 issued by British Courts were executed in the State, continues to receive close attention. The State Darbar has given proofs of its willingness to co-operate with the Assam Administration in the matter of facilitating the recovery of absconders, and the Political Agent attended a meeting of the Surma Valley Branch of the Indian Tea Association and discussed the whole question. Some points of detail yet remain to be settled, and the Chief Commissioner is in correspondence on the subject with the Government of Bengal.

The Governments of Bengal and the United Provinces brought to notice certain cases in which professional recruiters had been employed as garden sardars in the recruiting districts. The matter was taken up by the Surma Valley Branch of the Indian Tea Association, who held a full enquiry and warned their members of the necessity of avoiding such breaches of the rules. It is hardly necessary to point out that cases of this nature tend to discredit genuine *sardari* recruitment, and are calculated to make other Local Governments disinclined to afford recruiting facilities.

The Darjeeling Planters' Association addressed a request to the Government of Bengal that the district of Darjeeling should be closed to recruitment for Assam, on the ground that such recruitment interfered unfairly with the supply of labour for the local tea gardens. The question was fully discussed, and His Excellency the Governor in Council found himself unable to accede to the request.

Strength of the labour force.

203. At the close of the year the total strength of the labour force was 821,735. The number of labourers under contract under Act VI fell to 11,336.

Health.

204. The efficiency of the medical arrangements made for coolies during transit was evinced by the fact that, in spite of the increase in the number of immigrants, the figures of mortality and sickness show no corresponding increase. There was also a marked improvement in the health of the coolies on the gardens.

Fraudulent recruitment.

205. The number of complaints of fraudulent or irregular recruitment rose from 102 to 120, but the number of such complaints found to be true decreased from 51 to 46.

Act XIII of 1859.

206. Act XIII of 1859 continued to be largely used, and is again reported to have worked well on the whole. Agreements under the Act are largely executed by labourers whose contracts under Act VI have expired, as well as by free labourers when they reach the gardens. Such labourers are usually given all the privileges which contracts under Act VI require. The manner in which the Act was worked continued to offer a gratifying testimony to the general good sense and good feeling which marked the relations between employers and employed in the tea districts

Vital Statistics.

207. The recorded birth-rate was 27·6 per mille calculated on the total strength of the coolie population, and 93·5 per mille on the adult female population. The registered death-rate of the labour force as a whole decreased from 26·5 per mille to 24·7, the number of deaths being 19,947 against 20,573. The rate among adults was 28·3 as against 30·7 in the preceding year.

Miscellaneous.

208. In 18 complaints of ill-treatment, one of which was pending from the year before, made by coolies against their employers, 2 were found to be true. Applications for discharge certificates were successful in 236 cases. Managers instituted 1,062 cases under Act XIII of 1859 during the year. Of these, 441 were decided in favour of the complainants. Six cases of riot or unlawful assembly and five charges of assault were instituted by Managers. At the close of the year the area

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

of Government land settled direct with time-expired coolies was 196,234 acres. In the district of Lakhimpur 6,986 acres of land were settled with planters on special terms to enable them to allow their coolies to cultivate. In addition to the land held direct from Government, *ex*-coolies also occupy large tracts as sub-tenants. The relations between planters and the neighbouring villagers were generally good.

SECTION 3.—Charitable Dispensaries.

[*See* Dispensary Returns of the Province of Assam, 1912.]

Dispensaries.

209. At the close of the year there were 205 hospitals and dispensaries working in the province, 123 being supported by local bodies, 15 by private persons or missionary bodies, and the rest by the State.

The number of patients treated was 1,539,305 in 1912 against 1,416,555 in the previous year. Ten of the dispensaries treated more than 20,000 patients each and twelve between 15,000 and 20,000.

Seven hundred and twenty beds were available for in-door patients, and the total number of in-patients treated was 8,754.

The establishment of two travelling dispensaries—one in Kamrup and the other in Sylhet—was sanctioned during the year. A proposal for opening 17 more has since been sanctioned. The scheme for providing each district and subdivisional headquarters with an Assistant Surgeon made good progress and at the end of the year only three subdivisions remained without such officers. There was a large increase in the number of patients treated at *hâts*.

Leper Asylum

210. In the Leper Asylum at Sylhet, which is the only institution of its kind in the province, 25 patients were under treatment at the close of the year. The daily average number of patients treated rose from 21·01 in 1911 to 24·70 in 1912. The treatment by Nastin was continued. Administrative approval has been accorded to the reconstruction and enlargement, at an estimated cost of Rs. 44,970, of the Sylhet Leper Asylum and meanwhile additional temporary accommodation is being provided.

SECTION 4.—Lunatic Asylums.

(*See* Statistical Returns of the Lunatic Asylum in Assam for the year 1912.)

Asylum population.

211. During the year 1912, 60 patients were admitted and 6 re-admitted into the Tezpur Lunatic Asylum. The number of discharges (including 2 escapes) was 22, while 47 inmates died in the Asylum, the year closing with 229 insane persons under confinement. More than one-third of the inmates were criminal lunatics. As usual, cultivators and tea-garden coolies constituted the majority of the admissions. About 52 per cent. of the inmates remaining at the close of the year were suffering from mania and 39 per cent. from melancholia. The predisposing cause was not given in 64 out of a total of 66 cases and the exciting cause was not ascertained in 47. Heredity was the predisposing cause in 2 cases. *Ganja, charas or bhang* are reported to have been the exciting cause in 6 cases, fever in 3, epilepsy in 5, previous attack in 2, and alcohol, senility and valvular heart disease in 1 each.

Health of the inmates.

212. The number of admissions to hospital was 202 against 149 in the previous year. The number of deaths was also greater, being 47 against 23 in 1911. The chief causes of death in the Asylum during the year under report were tubercle of the lungs and intestines (23), anæmia (10), dysentery (4), epilepsy (3), pneumonia (2) and old age and general debility (2). The heavy death-rate from tubercle of the lungs and intestines was undoubtedly due to some extent to overcrowding and the absence of any means of segregation for infectious cases. In September 1912 a thatched building to accommodate 17 tubercular patients was erected outside the Asylum and 13 patients are now occupying it. Two more tubercle wards to provide accommodation for 16 males and 8 females have since been constructed and are occupied. These with four temporary barracks which are being constructed will relieve the overcrowding, and will provide sufficient accommodation for lunatics from the whole province. Since the close of the year it has been decided that criminal lunatics from the Surma Valley, who formerly were sent to Dacca Asylum, should be accommodated at Tezpur. A scheme for the reconstruction and enlargement of the permanent buildings has been administratively approved.

Cost of maintenance.

213. The average annual cost of maintaining each lunatic was Rs. 104-14-10 or Rs. 6-10 in excess of the cost in the previous year. The increase was due to higher cost under diet, establishment, clothing and bedding and contingencies.

SECTION 5.—Sanitation.

[*See* Annual Sanitary Report of the Province of Assam for 1912.]

Municipal Expenditure.

214. The aggregate income of Municipal institutions, excluding opening balances, was Rs. 5,28,160, against Rs. 5,36,892 of 1911. The total expenditure incurred on sanitation was Rs. 2,84,513.

Sanitary works and schemes.

215. On the recommendation of the Gauhati Water-Works Committee a loan of Rs. 10,000 and a grant of Rs. 6,500 were made to that municipality for the execution of certain improvements to the water-works. Grants of Rs. 28,244 and Rs. 22,961 were made to the Dhubri Municipality and the Golaghat Union, respectively, for the improvement of the water-supply of those towns. The Silchar water-supply scheme has been administratively approved by Government and a grant of Rs. 76,658 made to the Municipality, but the detailed scheme has not yet received the approval of Government. A number of other schemes for municipal water-supply and drainage were initiated as the result of the Chief Commissioner's tour. Local Boards spent Rs. 96,308 on sanitation, mainly on the improvement of rural water-supplies. As usual, Local Boards received help from the Sanitary Board and a sum of Rs. 50,923 was distributed by it to them. Of this, Rs. 2,680 went to the Surma Valley Boards and Rs. 48,243 to the Assam Valley Boards. The Gauhati Local Board's five-year scheme for improving the water-supply is approaching completion and fifty-nine new tanks and five new wells have been constructed and ten old tanks re-excavated. Similar schemes initiated by the Barpeta and Mangaldai Boards have been sanctioned and are in progress. As the result of a conference held after the close of the year under review, a sum of Rs. 1,90,000 was distributed among Local Boards for expenditure in 1913-14 and all Boards have been asked to draw up five-year programmes for improving the water-supply of the areas under their control. An experiment was made in issuing grants to villages through selected Local Boards for improving sanitation and general cleanliness; the results of the first year's working were hopeful and the experiment will be continued in a rather larger way.

Sale of quinine.

216. A most satisfactory increase in the sale of quinine treatments took place throughout the year, 20,360 more treatments being sold than in the previous year. In certain areas *kala-azar* showed renewed activity. Captain Mackie is enquiring into the etiology of the disease and a survey is being carried out by the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner with a staff of two Assistant Surgeons and fourteen Sub-Assistant Surgeons. The complete results are not yet available, but there seems to have been a distinct recrudescence in parts of the Nowgong, Kamrup and Goalpara districts and in the Mangaldai subdivision. An encouraging feature however is the success which has attended the measures taken for controlling the disease in the Golaghat subdivision. Enquiry into the prevalence of leprosy in Goalpara was completed; the frequency of the disease in the Goalpara subdivision is undeniable, and it is probable that it is equally prevalent in the surrounding country. A scheme for the construction of an enlarged leper Asylum at Sylhet has been administratively sanctioned and the detailed project is under preparation. When this is completed, it will be possible to send to this Asylum all the patients who desire modern treatment which holds out a reasonable hope of cure for early cases and arrest of the disease in non-advanced stages.

SECTION 6.—Vaccination.

(*See* Vaccination Returns of the Province of Assam for the year 1912-13.)

217. Vaccinations are performed by 330 departmental vaccinators and by garden doctors on tea gardens. The number of operations during the year was 333,363, against 305,845 during the previous year, the increase occurring mainly in the Sylhet, Kamrup, Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Cachar districts. The percentage of success in operations by departmental vaccinators, who performed by far the greatest portion of the work, was 97·92 per cent. in primary vaccinations and 73·01 in re-vaccinations. Deaths from small-pox amounted to ·67 per mille against ·35 in the previous year.

The inspecting staff consisted of 9 Inspectors and 18 Sub-Inspectors who inspected 60·26 per cent. of the primary vaccinations and 49·80 per cent. of the re-vaccinations. Civil Surgeons inspected 5·54 and 2·45 per cent. of the primary vaccinations and re-vaccinations, respectively, during the year 1912.

The percentage of available children vaccinated in the towns in which the Vaccination Act is in force was 62 per cent. against 79 per cent. in the previous year. This is unsatisfactory. In the districts, however, good progress was made and there was a general increase in the number of vaccinations. The gradual removal of the prejudice against vaccination among the Mahapurushias was a satisfactory feature of the year.

As in previous years, all vaccination operations were performed with glycerinated lymph manufactured by the Shillong Vaccine Depôt, which continues also to supply lymph to the Eastern Bengal districts.

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

Section 1.—General system of Public Instruction.

(*See* General Administration Report for 1911-1912, Part II, pages 121—123.)

SECTION 2.—Education.

[*See* General Report on Public Instruction in Assam for the year 1912-13, and Statistics of British India, Part VII.]

General.

218. Considerable grants were received from the Government of India during the year, including the share falling to Assam of the grant of Rs. 50,00,000 for popular education announced by His Majesty the King-Emperor at Delhi.

The total expenditure on public instruction rose from Rs. 16,09,062 in 1911-12 to Rs. 19,03,954 in the year under report. The main burden of the increase fell on public revenues, but there was a considerable increase also in Local Board expenditure, in fee receipts and in subscriptions. The increased expenditure was accompanied by general advance.

The number of pupils in attendance rose from 182,112 to 194,288 or by 6·7 per cent. The percentage of male pupils in all classes of educational institutions to the male population of school-going age was 32·04 against 30·4 in the preceding year and of female pupils 3·79 against 3·6.

Collegiate education.

219. The number of students in the two Assam colleges rose from 295 to 360. Liberal schemes were initiated for the development of both colleges. It is hoped that before long Assam will be educating within its own borders a sufficient number of University students to render it independent of the neighbouring provinces for its supply of men qualified for the liberal professions and the administrative service of the State.

The growing popularity of the hostel system continued; the number of students in residence rose from 124 to 196.

Secondary education.

220. The number of high schools was 29 against 28 in the previous year, the increase being due to the raising of the status of the Mission girls' school at Silchar. The number of pupils rose from 8,924 to 10,337, an increase which would have been more marked had the accommodation of the schools permitted. In pursuance of the policy of the Local Administration of having a Government High school at each Subdivisional headquarters negotiations were entered into for the transfer of the majority of the aided institutions to State control. The policy of improvement extended also to the unaided schools. Concurrently action has been proceeding for the improvement of the existing Government High schools in their staffs, buildings and hostels.

The success of the candidates at the Matriculation examination was on the whole satisfactory, 289 candidates against 262 in the preceding year having been passed by the University examiners. The progress has been steady, and it is gratifying to note that it has been accompanied by an equal steady advance in the percentage of success.

The increase in the demand for English education is most strongly manifested in the returns for Middle English schools which increased in number from 95 with an attendance of 10,922 to 102 with an attendance of 12,638, the number of unaided schools rising from 16 to 21.

Middle Vernacular education did not share in the general progress. The number of schools and pupils remaining almost stationary—36 schools with 2,796 pupils enrolled as against 35 and 2,753 in the previous year. The unpopularity of vernacular institutions beyond the Lower Primary stage is not unnatural. The course leads nowhere except to the poorly paid occupation of vernacular teaching. Proposals were considered during the year for employing a portion of the Coronation grant received from the Government of India in abolishing the payment of fees in Upper Primary and Middle Vernacular schools, and for removing other disabilities affecting vernacular education beyond the Lower Primary standard.

Primary education.

221. Primary schools for boys increased from 3,469 to 3,534 and their pupils from 141,748 to 148,278. Expenditure rose from Rs. 4,87,083 to Rs. 5,02,079. The Imperial subsidy was spent during the year on the improvement of buildings and equipment.

Institutions for training of teachers.

222. The system of training remained unchanged. There were 3 normal schools and 6 elementary training schools. The number of pupils in the training schools and classes was 361 against 402 in the previous year, and the returns of trained teachers show an increase from 2,017 to 2,109.

There is no institution in Assam for the training of female teachers.

Law class. 223. The number of Law students in the single Law class at Gauhati was 13 against 14 in the preceding year. The expenditure was Rs. 563 against Rs. 340 in the previous year.

Medical school. 224. The number of students in the Berry-White School was 135 against 108 in the previous year. The number of Muhammadans increased from 16 to 20 and of hill men from 10 to 13. Of the Hindu and Muhammadan pupils 63 against 51 in the previous year were from the Assam Valley. The total expenditure rose from Rs. 24,745 to Rs. 29,214.

Technical and Industrial Schools. 225. There is little to be said in regard to technical and industrial instruction in Assam, effort being at present confined to a few schools for teaching blacksmithy and carpentry, and the grant of a number of scholarships and apprenticeship stipends.

Tols. 226. The decline in the number of tols was not continued. The number of tols rose from 54 to 61 and of tol pupils from 1,237 to 1,249, and this, despite the fact that the knowledge of Sanskrit is losing in public estimation and that no measures of encouragement were taken by the Administration during the year. Action in this regard was in suspense, pending the outcome of deliberations in Bengal in regard to the re-organization of the Dacca Saraswat Samaj.

Madrasa. 227. Madrasa education remains popular with the more orthodox Muhammadans and the year showed an increase in the enrolment. This is a matter for congratulation only in so far as it betokens a growing interest in education. It would be to the advantage of the community if the interest were diverted to more fruitful fields than that of the belated Islamic culture which the present Madrasas afford. The standard of instruction in Madrasas is low, the courses orthodox with a conservatism long out of date, the education imparted of little or no advantage except to the small percentage of the pupils who pursue the course to its close in the hope of securing positions as Maulvis, etc.; and even to these pupils the Madrasas fail to impart a sound Islamic training. As in the case of Sanskrit education, reform in Assam has awaited the outcome of deliberations in Bengal—the decision to be come to with regard to the establishment of a Department of Islamic studies in the new University of Dacca. The establishment of a Government Madrasa at Sylhet, which was sanctioned in course of the year, will, it is hoped, provide satisfactorily for the maintenance of Islamic learning and permit of the conversion of a number of the existing Madrasas into more efficient and more useful institutions.

Female education. 228. At the close of the year 3·7 per cent. of the girls of Assam were attending recognized schools, a slight advance on the previous year's percentage of 3·4. The total number of such schools for girls rose from 252 to 268—figures for attendance showed an actual increase of 1,154 girls or, roughly, 6½ per cent. The total number of girls reading in recognized schools, including those in boys' schools, was 19,085 against 17,931 in the previous year. This is a fairly satisfactory increase, but no great advance can be expected until there is a sensible change in the attitude of the people to the seclusion and early marriage of females. The people of the Hills are more liberal in this respect than their brethren of the plains. The Khasi and Jaintia Hills District continues to have by far the largest proportion of its girls at school.

Advance has been most rapid in those schools which are primarily intended for girls. Co-education beyond the most elementary stage is at present impossible. A scheme was presented for the opening of 50 new girls' schools in places where the attendance of girls in mixed schools was such as to justify the hope that the schools would not fail for want of a sufficiency of pupils. Action was taken during the year to advance the headquarters girls' schools where possible to the Middle English standard, and one Middle English school in the plains opened the first class of the High school stage of instruction.

European education. 229. There are two European schools in Assam, one a Government school, the other a Convent school, both primarily for girls, but taking in little boys also up to the age of ten years. Considerable improvements were effected in the Government school in the matter of staff, salaries, buildings, and organization. The Convent school, hitherto unaided, was given a liberal grant for the enlargement of its buildings, and a scheme was put in hand for the improvement of the staff, with the assistance of a maintenance grant from public revenues, to enable the school to secure the recognition of the Cambridge Syndicate for the purposes of the Junior School Leaving Certificate examination. Negotiations were in progress for the establishment of two new schools, an elementary school for the poorer classes in Madlong, and a secondary boys' school in Shillong.

230. The number of Muhammadan students at college in Assam was 39 against 27 in the previous year. The following statement shows the increase in the number of Muhammadan pupils in the various classes of recognized schools:— Muhammadan education.

	1911-12.	1912-13.	Percentage of increase.
1	2	3	4
High schools	1,703	1,922	12·9
Middle English schools	2,307	2,729	18·3
Vernacular schools	495	471	—·5
Primary schools	34,014	35,619	4·7

231. Progress in the education of most of the hill peoples and of the backward classes has been maintained. In the case of the North Cachar and the Naga Hills, owing to the diversity of tribes and languages, the policy of educating the people in and through the medium of the tribal language or languages has stood in the way of advance. Certain of the lower Hindu castes are awaking to the advantages of education, and measures were proposed during the year to help them on the path of progress. Backward classes.

232. The scheme for the education of the children of tea-garden coolies did not make satisfactory progress. Children of tea-garden coolies.

233. The conduct of pupils and students in schools and colleges was not on the whole unsatisfactory. But there were a number of grave offences against decency, and as in the previous year, an attempt was made, this time fortunately only partially successful, to destroy the buildings of one of the High schools by fire. Discipline.

SECTION 3.—Literature and the Press.

(*See* Statistics of British India, Part VII, Educational.)

234. The total number of publications registered during the year under Act XXV of 1867, as amended by Act X of 1890, was 44 against 37 in the preceding year. Of these, 9 were educational and 35 non-educational works. Thirty-four were first editions, 9 were republications and one was a translation; 13 of these books were in Bengali, 11 were in Assamese, 9 were in Khasi, 2 in Nagri and one was in Arabic-Nagri. These publications do not represent the whole literary output of the province as books by Assamese authors are printed and registered outside the province, *e.g.*, in Calcutta and Dacca. Publications registered.

The publications registered during the year are classified as below according to the subject dealt with:—

Drama	1
Geography	1
General School Books	4
Law	1
Mathematics	2
Miscellaneous	6
Periodicals	8
Poetry	7
Religion	19
Total ...	44

No book was received under any of the heads Science, Philosophy, Fiction and History.

A new periodical was registered during the year—the "Arjya Darpan," published monthly at Jorhat, in Bengali.

235. One English, one Anglo-Vernacular, and twelve vernacular newspapers were published during the year. The tone of the press was generally unobjectionable. Newspapers.

SECTION 4.—Scientific and Literary Societies.

Nil.

SECTION 5.—Arts and Sciences.

Nil.

CHAPTER VIII—ARCHÆOLOGY.

236. Twenty-eight monuments had been declared as protected under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, VII of 1904, up to the end of 1911-12. Among the most interesting are the rock inscriptions at the foot of the Kamakhya Hill near Gauhati, the dargah of Shah Jallal at Sylhet, the copper temple near Sadiya, the Kachari ruins at Dimapur, the rock-cut temple at Maibang, the ruins of the Ahom palaces at Rangpur and Garhgaon in Sibsagar, and the temples at Jaisagar and Gaurisagar.

During the year the three temples at Sibsagar which were built by Rani Ambica, the second wife of the Ahom King Sib Singh, in the first half of the 18th century, and the Rangnath Dole at Rangpur, the Ahom capital, were declared as protected monuments under the Act.

The question of the preservation of the stone carvings at Tezpur, the remains, according to tradition, of the palace of Ban Daitya, King of Sonitpur, engaged the attention of the Chief Commissioner. A strong committee has been appointed since the close of the year to advise on the scheme of preservation to be adopted.

Special repairs were carried out by the Public Works Department to the Sivadole temple at Negriting and the Bishnudole temple at Jaisagar at a cost of Rs. 385 and Rs. 379, respectively, and a sum of Rs. 1,056 was spent on repairs to the Kachari monuments at Dimapur.

CHAPTER IX—MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION 1.—Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

(*See* General Administration Report for 1911-1912, Part II, page 128.)

SECTION 2.—Ecclesiastical.

237. The Ecclesiastical establishment of the Province, paid entirely or in part by this Administration, consisted of the Chaplains at Shillong, Silchar, Darrang, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur. The incomes of the Chaplains at the four last-mentioned stations are supplemented by private subscriptions or contributions from Missionary Societies. The Chaplaincy of Darrang has been vacant since June 1912. The Chaplain of Shillong visited regularly once a quarter the outstations of Gauhati and Dhubri and made a tour in the Naga Hills and Manipur in January 1913. He also visited Cherrapunjee and Goalpara for the purpose of inspecting the cemeteries.

SECTION 3.—Stationery.

238. The total value of Stationery supplied to this Province in 1912-13 was Rs. 47,026, including Rs. 12,179, the value of articles supplied to the Secretariat Press at Shillong.

SECTION 4.—Printing.

PRINTING.

239. The cash receipts of the Secretariat Press amounted to Rs. 2,725 and the total expenditure to Rs. 1,46,714. The value of the outturn exceeded the actual amount paid to the workmen by Rs. 3,095.

SECTION 5.—Veterinary Department.

[*See* Report of the Civil Veterinary Department, Assam, for 1912-13.]

Treatment of diseases.

240. There was a satisfactory reduction in the mortality of cattle from contagious diseases inspite of an unusually severe outbreak of rinderpest in the Dibrugarh subdivision. There was a corresponding decrease in the number of cases treated for contagious diseases. That the general public are beginning to appreciate better the work of the Department is shown by the increase of 39 per cent. in the number of cases treated by itinerary assistants for non-contagious diseases.

Report on outbreaks.

241. With a view to securing speedier and more complete information regarding the outbreak of cattle-disease, an attempt has been made to enlist the services of touring officers of other departments, village officials, tea-garden managers and other private persons.

Breeding operations.

242. The question of the improvement of the breed of cattle is still awaiting the report of the special officer appointed to consider the subject by the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

General.

243. Two Veterinary Inspectors were employed throughout the year 1912. As the charges in the Brahmaputra Valley were found to be too large for efficient work, a third Inspector was appointed in January last. The staff employed at the close of the year consisted of 29 Veterinary Assistants against 24 in the previous year. The sanctioned staff is 51, comprising 38 Assistants for plains districts, 5 for hill districts, 2 Staff Assistants and 6 Reserve Assistants. Since the close of the year an annual contribution of Rs. 1,000 from Provincial funds has been granted to each of the Local Boards of Barpeta, Goalpara, Mangaldai, Golaghat, North Lakhimpur and Hailakandi in order to cover the cost of the entertainment of a second Itinerary Assistant, but candidates for the posts are not yet forthcoming. As it has been found that the present pay does not attract sufficient candidates, proposals for improving the prospects of the service are under consideration.

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